

Monks accused of helping Ulster escapes

By SIMON WINCHESTER

Two Cistercian monks appeared in court in County Tyrone yesterday accused of assisting two men to escape from the Crumlin Road prison, Belfast earlier this week.

At the same time, hundreds of troops and police were searching the monastery of Our Lady of Bethlehem in Portlengone, County Antrim, some 30 miles away, where the accused monks live and work.

At dusk search parties reported that nothing had been found, although there were unconfirmed suggestions that a radio set had been discovered in a chicken shed. Late in the evening the two monks

were allowed to return to the care of their abbot, who stood bail of £800 for them.

Two businessmen, also charged with assisting the prisoners' escape, were released on bail until next Friday. At about the same time in Dublin, Mr. Joseph Cahill, a leading member of the Provisional IRA, said that the other seven men who escaped from the Crumlin Road on Tuesday morning would appear at a press conference in the city today. All nine men, including the two now recaptured, were on remand in the prison on arms and explosives charges.

The circumstances surrounding the re-arrest of the two

escapers, named as Christopher Keenan (21) and Daniel Mullan (17), who came from the Short Strand and the Ardoyne areas of Belfast respectively, are still unclear. It now seems that the two were picked up at an RUC-UDR road block near Omagh early on Thursday night. It is alleged that both were wearing clerical dress at the time and that a monk and lay brother were also in the car.

There were suggestions yesterday that two other prisoners were being smuggled across the border into the republic at about the same time as the car carrying Keenan and Mullan was stopped. It is believed that a full-scale smuggling operation was in progress that night. Certainly, Mr. Cahill said yesterday that the remaining seven were now all in the "safety" of the Irish Republic and apparently had been since early yesterday.

It is understood that police in the Omagh area were ready and waiting for the car which carried Keenan and Mullan. A man who had apparently taken them to Portlengone was arrested early on Thursday. It was reportedly on information received from him that an extensive cordon was mounted by troops and police that afternoon and by 7 pm Portlengone, a small town near Ballymena, about 34 miles from Belfast, was completely surrounded, and road blocks had been set up on dozens of roads leading towards the border.

There was an unconfirmed suggestion that police were aware that some of the escaped prisoners would be wearing clerical dress.

The cordon remained in position throughout the extremely cold night, thus suggesting that Keenan and Mullan had already left the area by the time it was set up.

At 8 am yesterday, a large force of heavily armed Marine Commandos, artillery men and Scots Guards, together with RUC men, entered the monastery. Forty-three monks, all members of the fairly strict, silent Cistercian order, were apparently fully cooperative as police searched "every single inch" of the monastery buildings, including the chapel. Soldiers did not enter the main buildings but confined their searches to the 300 acres of surrounding farmland where the monks make their living by rearing cattle and poultry.

By 4 pm the search was over and the Abbot, Don Aengus Dwyer, said that no damage had been done and that he had

border shooting. Maudling meets Lord Hill, and press sees banned film, back page

criticism of the operation. The soldiers were only doing their duty."

In court at Omagh, Eithier Thomas O'Neill and Brother Patrick Skeehan appeared with Keenan and Mullan and the two businessmen Eugene Scallion, of Omagh and Hugh Downey, of Portlengone. The Crumlin Road prisoners were charged with escaping from custody, the two monks with assisting them to escape, and the two businessmen with assisting a person unknown to escape custody.

Keenan appeared in court wearing a clerical collar. The escapers were remanded in custody until Friday: the others were given bail totalling £1,600 and were also remanded until Friday. All six are due to appear in court in Belfast.

Dom Dwyer gave an undertaking that the two monks would stay within his own jurisdiction, and their solicitor added that neither would be free to leave Ulster without breaking their solemn vows.



The scene at the Cistercian monastery at Portlengone as troops searched

Brake begins to grip on price increases

By VICTOR KEEGAN, Industrial Correspondent

Substantial evidence that inflation is slowly being overcome was contained in the official index of retail prices, published yesterday.

The index published by the Department of Employment, rose 0.9 points to October to 158.4, or 9.4 per cent above the level of a year earlier. This compared with 9.9 for September and 10.3 for August, showing that there has been a significant change of trend.

Price increases, of course, are still at a high level compared with a year earlier, but this is mainly because there were such big increases in the first half of the year. In the three months since the price initiative by the Federation of British Industries, prices have risen by only 0.8 per cent.

Such a small increase (equivalent to an annual rise of only 3.2 per cent) is partly due to seasonal falls in food prices and is unlikely to be maintained, but it does explain the confidence in Whitehall that inflation is being checked.

There is good reason for this confidence since the price slowdown at the retail level is still not reflecting much of the effects of the CBI initiative, which will act immediately on wholesale prices, but will not

generally affect retail prices for six months or more. But the CBI initiative has coincided with a period of slow deceleration of prices in an important range of goods. Indeed, it was because profits were rising after the last round of price increases that the CBI was able to make such a public demonstration.

A large part of last month's price increases consisted of the usual winter increase in coal prices—which could equally be described as the withdrawal of the summer reduction, plus retail increases, especially in council houses.

There were also increases to such things as hairdressing, shoe repairs, car insurance, some Sunday newspapers, and sales in Scotland—all commodities either outside the scope of the CBI initiative or exempted.

Yesterday's figures coincided with an announcement by Allied Bakeries, part of Associated British Foods, that bread would go up by 1p on December 6. However, the company claims that the increase will be less than 5 per cent compared with the pre-decimalisation price of bread. The CBI scheme allows "unavoidable" increases providing that they are limited to 5 per cent.

For the first time the Depart-

ment of Employment has published a separate index measuring price rises for all goods and services except the seasonal foods which are subject to unpredictable changes. This index showed a rise of only 3.4 per cent over the past six months.

With the effects of the CBI initiative and especially the freeze on nationalised industry prices yet to come, it will take substantial rises in raw material and food prices to change the trend—providing that industry keeps to its pledge.

The Government is obviously hoping that publicity about the trend of retail prices will have some effect on the current round of wage settlements, which are bound to set the pattern for the rest of the year.

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Sir Alec gains little ground

From PETER NIESEWAND

Salisbury, November 19
Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Rhodesian leader, Mr Ian Smith, today grappled with the crucial differences which still divide them. By this evening, there was no sign of progress. Another meeting has been scheduled for Saturday morning.

Officially, an information blackout surrounds the negotiations, but I understand that both sides are reluctant to make the first concession.

Since the British flew in on Monday, officials have been meeting daily to confirm the progress made in previous rounds of talks and to isolate the "final gap." This exercise has now been virtually completed, and the decks are cleared for the hard bargaining that can only be conducted at ministerial level.

I understand the main differences centre around the fourth British principle for a settlement, which calls for progress towards ending racial discrimination. The British would like to phase out the controversial Land Tenure Act, which divides Rhodesia between the five million Africans and the quarter million ruling whites and which strictly controls the activities of one race in the area of another. But the Rhodesians insist on a steeper of white politics and it will not be lightly abandoned.

The "Rhodesian Financial Gazette," a weekly paper, suggested today that another area of disagreement could be the second British principle, which insists on guarantees against retrogressive amendments to the Constitution.

The paper said Britain had made it clear she would not insist on an external guarantee. It went on: "This might mean that the British will insist on the justifiability of the Bill of Rights."

"It is known from sources inside the Rhodesian Front that this would be strongly resented. Some MPs have even suggested they would not be able to go along with a settlement if this is part of it."

Sir Alec is nearing the end of his interviews with Rhodesians of all races and in general the Lewis has heard have been hostile to Mr Smith and the 1969 "Republic" Constitution.

The exception came yesterday morning, when he met the chairman of Mr Smith's Rhodesian Front, Mr Desmond Frost, and a party delegation. A Rhodesian Front statement later said the delegation had

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Wilson: I am no emissary

From IAN AITKEN in Dublin

Mr Harold Wilson flatly denied last night that he had made his fact-finding visit to Northern Ireland and Dublin as an emissary of the Government. He had not discussed any such proposal with Mr Heath in advance, he said.

He was speaking at a press conference at Dublin Airport before returning to London. In a statement before the questioning began, he said: "I must dispel any impression that I am here as an emissary for Mr Heath."

He confirmed that he had asked that a member of the staff of the Cabinet Office should be attached to his team so that a detailed report of his talks could be delivered to Mr Heath. But he insisted that, although the Government had provided facilities for his visit, he had not discussed with Mr Heath any proposal that he should act as an emissary.

Mr Wilson also declared that it was quite wrong to assume that he had come with any preconceived views or ideas on the form which a solution of the Ulster problem should take. "The political history of both our countries is covered with the white bones of politicians who had preconceived ideas about how to solve this problem," he said.

Earlier, it had become clear that Mr Wilson was taken aback by the discovery that there is not now to be a debate on Ulster in the Commons next week. The whole of his tour, and the impressive array of groups and individuals whom he had met, was based on the assumption that he would be able to reveal his conclusions in a major speech to the Commons on Tuesday or Wednesday. All the signs are that he

is dismayed, and even indignant. However, he was restrained in his comments at the press conference. He commented that he would have liked to see a debate take place next week, and added merely that he believed there were difficulties for some of the other people scheduled to take part in it. Although he did not come him, the reference was taken to be directed at Mr Heath's engagement next week.

Mr Wilson said: "I do not think this situation will wait, so I may have to find an opportunity to make a statement in other circumstances."

One opportunity, which will offer itself next week, is the Parliamentary Labour Party debate on Northern Ireland on Tuesday. It is possible that Mr Wilson will address that meeting at length relying on a subsequent press conference by the chairman of the party, Mr Douglas Houghton, to make the content of his speech known to the press and television.

However, there is every sign that he will have some sharp words to say to those of his colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet who were responsible for allowing the Government to side-step a debate next week. The cancellation of the debate means that Mr Wilson will be unable to address the Commons on Ulster for more than a fortnight. He is due to fly to New York next Saturday, and will not return to London until late the following Wednesday. That rules out a debate until the week after next.

When Mr Wilson arrived in London he changed his earlier plans and left for his country home in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, instead of flying to Liverpool for a civic function in his constituency, Huxton.

WINTER came suddenly to many parts of Britain yesterday. Many roads throughout Scotland and the north of England were affected by snow. This car ran into trouble near Kirby Moorside in North Yorkshire

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When your innards strain and snap...

By our Correspondent

COMPUTERS at East Farnleigh railway station in Kent are being offered tea and coffee while they wait. Improving the image of British Rail with customers was the

idea of John "Spud" Murphy, a railwayman for 19 years.

His non-profit making scheme is undercutting official BR prices by as much as 31p on a cup of tea and 5p on coffee. He doesn't make a charge but invites customers to contribute towards buying the tea, coffee, sugar and milk.

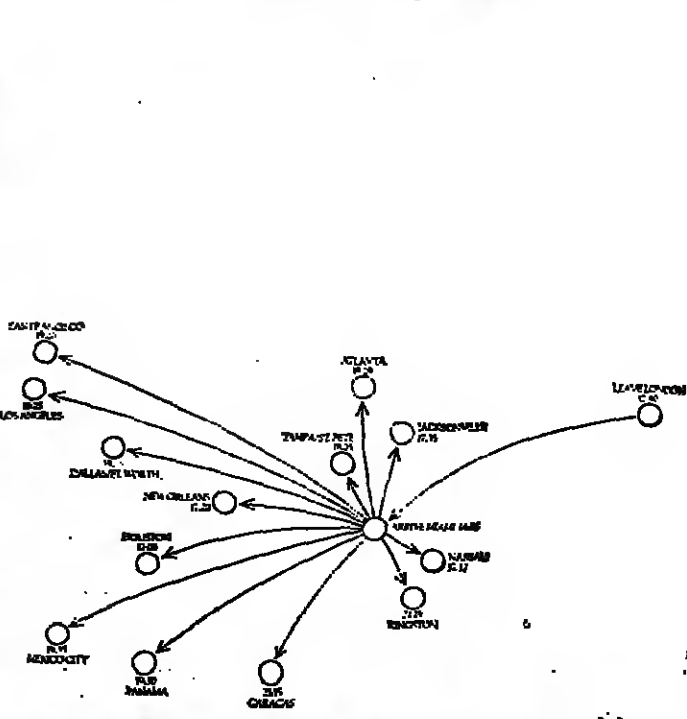
Spud, aged 47, who also looks after the booking office and the signals, said: "In my first week I have served up to 20 customers a day with tea or coffee. As the cold weather comes I think this will increase to up to 50 a day."

Spud announced his scheme in verse on the station blackboard. "When the fog around you wraps, and your innards strain and snap, Mostly you will see, a nice hot cup of tea. This can be reality, by bringing four cups down to me. With this endeavour in mind, try and be extra kind and put your pennies in the plate, for more tea and sugar's sake."

Spud has also organised a "swap bookstall" in the waiting room where commuters can exchange books and magazines for 1p in a BR orphanage box.

A BR spokesman said Mr Murphy was not in direct commercial competition. "We are delighted with the good spirit he is showing."

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Guardian takes design award

THE GUARDIAN has won the 1971 Newspaper Design Award in the class for daily and Sunday papers. It is the first time the paper has won the award, although it has been placed second on three previous occasions, including last year.

The judges say: "No one can dispute the quality of the quality of the Guardian's design. It is adept at handling its simple typography. It is an exceptionally well-organised and well-labelled paper, so that the reader can find his way about easily and speedily."

The judges add that their longest and deepest argument in their task was to decide the relative merits of The Guardian and The Sunday Times. After detailed consideration of the design efforts of these two distinguished newspapers, the Guardian won by a majority.

The judges were Lord Redcliffe-Maud, Mr Raymond Hawkey, and Mr A. B. Smith, with Mr Allen Hunt as technical adviser. The awards are sponsored by the Linotype Group in cooperation with Printing World.

Winner of the class for evening papers was the Oxford Mail, and for weekly papers, the West Lancashire Visitor, Southport.

The Guardian's award, which coincides with its 150th anniversary year, comes as the latest of a series. Other recent awards include:

Alastair Retherington, Journalist of the Year (1970 National Press Awards);
Women's Page of the Year (1970 Granada Television Award);

Peter Jenkins, Political Writer of the Year (Political Campaign Poll);
Philip Hope-Wallace, runner-up, Critic of the Year (National Press Awards).

The Guardian also won the Newspaper of the Year title in the 1969 Granada Television awards.

Heath to see Feather

MR HEATH has agreed to meet the TUC and its general secretary, Mr Vic Feather, to discuss unemployment. The meeting will be at 10 Downing Street on November 29. The request for the meeting came from the TUC, whose finance and general purposes committee met yesterday and recommended Mr Feather to ask the Prime Minister to see the general council.

Labour limbers up, page 6.

W. German visit

PRESIDENT Heinemann of West Germany will pay a state visit to Britain late next year. A Buckingham Palace statement said the Queen has invited the President to pay a state visit some time after mid-October 1972.

North Sea strike

A BIG oil strike has been made in the North Sea by a consortium which includes the Gas Council. First signs indicate a probable flow of 4,000 barrels of oil and two million cubic feet of gas a day.

Details, back page.

Daughter dies

LORRAINE WISBEY, aged 16, the daughter of the train robber Thomas Wisbey, died last night in the South London hospital where she had been detained after being injured in a car crash. Her father, who is serving a 30-year sentence in Parkhurst, had been allowed to visit her in hospital.

Author agrees

ROBERT GRAVES has written to support the parents who banned their twin sons, aged 15, from reading his book, "Goodbye to All That," for a school examination. In a letter to Mr William Merchant and his wife, the poet said in the boys' place he, too, would have refused to read out any embarrassing passages in front of a mixed class.

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"Some people believe that the German standard of news values denotes a deep-seated lack of interest in the fate of individuals... this seems to me to be an unjustified assumption."

Letter from Bonn

NORMAN CROSSLAND

THE SENSE of news values in this country is often very odd. When a section of a box-girder bridge crashed into the Rhine at Coblenz the other day, trapping workmen under a pile of twisted steel on the river bed, the main television news programme of the evening—five hours after the event—led with parliamentary business, the vote of the Tenants' Protection Bill and the discussion about the Betriebsverfassungsgesetz, the law concerning workers' rights at their places of employment. As the programme was nearing its end, it was announced that the Bundestag had been told of the bridge collapse, and had expressed its sympathy with the injured and the relatives of the dead. This item was accompanied by a still picture of the bridge.

Tenants and workers' rights are indeed worthy causes, but need not be considered so worthy if placed second or third on a news schedule when more urgent, startling and important news is about to be broadcast. Television was not alone in its assessment. The collapse of the bridge was given much the same treatment by many newspapers.

There are many examples of

this attitude. West Germany has the worst road safety record in Western Europe but casualty statistics after an alarming crop of accidents during a bank holiday weekend hardly scrape on to the back page. And a mining disaster in Lower Saxony some years ago, in which some men were trapped for many days, was more prominently reported in the newspapers of Britain and other countries than by the West German press.

Some people believe that the German standard of news values denotes a deep-seated lack of interest in the fate of individuals, a callousness about human life. This seems to me an unjustified assumption, and there is plenty of evidence to discount it. But there is one doubtfully a feeling on the part of the press, television, and radio that the human story, or rather its prominent display, is strictly for what is contemptuously called the "boulevard press."

Television news will bore its audience to tears with the dull contributions. For what is the chairman of some association or other (the Carpet Cleaners' Federation, perhaps, or the Council to Prevent Unfair Competition) as he pompously

delivers a statement that would drive even his executive committee heading into the next Wirthshaus.

But then, to be fair, such men are not chosen for their news value. Their associations happen to be represented on the advisory boards of the television and radio stations, and for democracy's sake they have to have a crack of the whip occasionally.

WHEN MEETING visiting statesmen or politicians, the Germans attach great importance to the surroundings. No doubt it is all part of the German love of Gemuetlichkeit. Thus Mrs Gadhafi is taken to a Schloss near Bonn, and a formal dinner is given for her by the German Government. The German Government is also invited to the town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber while it thrashes out its differences with Germany as to whether the Muehlheim agreement of 1938 is still valid from the start or was from the start unjust and is invalid now.

In the summer, President Pompidou was put aboard a Rhine steamer for his talks with the chancellor about the floating mark, and during the

negotiations for the Moscow treaty the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, was flown in by helicopter to a meeting with Foreign Minister Walter Scheel in the Taunus hills.

Some years ago the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Callaghan, was driven to an inn in the Ahr valley to discuss the problem of offsetting the foreign exchange costs of stationing British troops in Germany, but a gemutlich afternoon in the garden did not prevent him from threatening to the boys home, if necessary, even if it meant putting them under canvas on Salisbury Plain. (Nothing came of that.) Meanwhile the search goes on for a German Chequers within easy reach of the capital.

PROGRESSIVE Catholics are angry about a decision of a majority of bishops to close down "Publicus," a church weekly which for three years has been blowing hefty gusts of fresh air into West German Catholicism. It had a circulation of 50,000, was highly respected and widely quoted, but was subsidised by the church to the tune of six million marks a year (about £750,000). This is a lot of money, but it is a small proportion of the enormous

annual revenue of church tax. In fact, six million marks amounts to about 5 per cent of the Catholic Church's total income from taxation.

Few people believe that the paper was sacrificed on financial grounds and a more likely reason is that the overwhelmingly conservative hierarchy wished to silence a dangerously liberal voice. The Liberals say that this voice was perfectly in harmony with the Vatican's policy, started under Pope John XXIII, of opening a dialogue between the Church and the world. But some of the liberals, clergy and laity, have been getting too progressive for establishment tastes, and the old guard bishops have been heavily applying the brakes. One of the most important German theologians, the Jesuit Professor Karl Rahner, described the closure of "Publicus" as a tragedy for German Catholicism.

THE FEATHERSTONE Park Old Boys have been meeting again in Düsseldorf under the approving eye of their honorary chairman, Herbert Sulzbach, a German / Briton who fought for the Kaiser in the First World War and King George VI in the second. Featherstone Park was a Ger-

man prisoner of war camp Northumberland and Sulzbach now 77 (but still working more than 11 hours a day) the German Embassy in London was posted to the camp, and he set at teaching the inmates the craft of radiating what still refers to as the Featherstone Park spirit.

Every year his now mid-aged boys meet in Düsseldorf and talk with nostalgia at the good old days at the Ror Wall. This year's speaker, Patrick Gordon Walker who was held, had shown the spirit in defying the whims of Europe, and the audience included an old man who is doing extremely well as a farmer in Kent, another a vintner in the Rhine, a businessman who saved Jews from death, and some 20 former German prisoners of war. Those I met said one of the reasons they liked it was the pace of life in Britain rather less frenetic than in Fatherland, but one said he still a bit mixed up as "in Britain we're the B—German and here we're the B—British."

Caetano tackles guerrillas

Lisbon, November 19

The Portuguese Government today began consideration of steps to suppress subversion within the country in accordance with a directive from the National Assembly. The Assembly acted last night after receiving a message from the Prime Minister, Dr Caetano.

He asked Parliament to debate the presence of subversion "even in metropolitan Portugal where terrorist acts have been carried out or attempted."

Under the Constitution, the Government needs parliamentary approval for any steps limiting the rights of individuals. As a result of the Assembly's directive, Dr Caetano is now empowered and instructed to take steps to suppress subversion.

Last week urban guerrillas claimed responsibility for bombing an important North Atlantic Treaty Organisation communications centre as well as a Portuguese gun emplacement near Lisbon.

A message went by post to newspapers and news agencies in Lisbon by the urban guerrilla movement calling itself "Revolutionary Brigade No 4" claimed it had destroyed a battery of four guns, three miles across the Tagus River from Lisbon.

The communiqué also claimed the successful bombing a few days earlier by Revolutionary Brigade No 2 of the NATO communications centre at Ponte da Telha, south of Lisbon.

This attack was the second on NATO installations within a month, the first wrecked the interior of the new Iberian Atlantic headquarters outside Lisbon on October 27. — UPI.

Mr Luns in Greece

Mr Joseph Luns, the new Secretary-General of NATO, flew from Ankara to Athens yesterday for three days of talks with Greek leaders and Government officials.

The defence of NATO's South-eastern flank in view of the Soviet naval build-up in the Mediterranean is expected to be one of the major subjects discussed, and is also expected to be on the agenda.

Speedy report for New Delhi

New Delhi, November 19

India's new High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr Jai Kumar Atal, flew back to New Delhi today for consultations within 24 hours of presenting his credentials to President Yahya Khan.

He is certain to report on the present mood in Pakistan towards the tension with India over the East Pakistan crisis and the series of border incidents, but no official reason has been given for his trip so soon after assuming his appointment.

Five incidents of firing across the border have been reported within the past 48 hours—in Kashmir, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Assam. The incidents appeared to be less serious than others that have occurred recently, and in no way comparable with fighting on the East Pakistan border at the end of last month, full details of which are only now being disclosed.

A Reuters correspondent reported today from Kamalpur, 75 miles north of Agartala, that high-ranking Indian border officials put casualties in an eight-day battle there, three weeks ago, 75 Indian soldiers and at least 450 Pakistani troops killed.

The battle followed an Indian foray across the border to silence guns, a mile inside East Pakistan, that had been shelling Indian territory for 11 days. The Defence Ministry announced at the time that Indian forces had "taken some action" to stop the shelling, but refused to say whether they had crossed the border. Kamalpur is now an abandoned town, surrounded by lush green rice fields, postmarked by craters and other signs of shellfire.

The massive problem of caring for East Pakistani refugees continues to preoccupy the Indian Parliament. Mr R. K. Hazari, Minister for Labour and Rehabilitation, told Parliament today that the number of refugees now totalled 9,700,000 and would have cost the country 5,250 million rupees (about £230 million) by the end of next month. Foreign aid for the refugees had so far amounted to about £30 million.

Speaking of the refugee crisis in a radio broadcast last night, President V. V. Giri said India was reaching the end of its patience and resources. He accused Pakistan of adopting a war posture and warned, "We

are fully prepared to meet any threat to our integrity."

The only sign of any thaw in the chilly Indo-Pakistan relations has come with the lifting of restrictions on the movement of the staff of diplomatic missions, which were halted last April after the East Pakistan conflict and the defection to the Bangla Desh movement of many of the staff of Pakistan's mission in Calcutta. Diplomats and other staff of each country's mission began returning home today as the visa restrictions were lifted.

In Paris, Pakistan's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sultan M. Khan, arrived today to seek support for his country in its conflict with India, following the same route that Mrs Gandhi travelled last week. In contrast to the lavish official welcome that France gave her—which included meetings and dinners with President Pompidou and the Prime Minister—Sultan Khan did not appear to have made any contacts with French officials.

He said he did not know whether he would be meeting his French counterpart, M. Schumann, during his short stay. Sultan Khan said he had already visited Washington, and Ottawa on his tour, and would stop in Bonn on his way home to Pakistan.

Speaking to journalists at the Pakistan Embassy, he said that his Government had deployed a ring of eight divisions around East Pakistan, and nine or ten divisions along the West Pakistan border with India. — Reuters and UPI.

'Z' judge released

The Greek military authorities yesterday ordered the release on health grounds of the former judge, Christos Sartzetakis, who has been detained without trial for 11 months.

Mr Sartzetakis (41), led the investigation into the assassination of the former left-wing deputy, Grigoris Lambrakis, in Salonika in 1963. The film "Z" was based on the inquiry.

Mr Sartzetakis has been detained in Salonika last December in connection with a series of bomb explosions in Athens.



M. Eyskens

Waiting for Eyskens

From RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR

Brussels, November 19

The new Belgian Government is likely to be formed within the coming week, after local elections in the Brussels area on Sunday. Although many observers believe that the outgoing Premier, M. Eyskens, has already brought a team together, the two main parties—the Social Christians and the Socialists—do not want to announce anything until the results of Sunday's elections are known.

The local elections will be of interest mainly because of the spectacular gains made by the French-speaking federalist parties in the general elections a fortnight ago. There is a real possibility they will be able to form a majority in the new Brussels Community.

This would put pressure on the five "peripheral" communes, which the Flemish insist, must be kept outside the jurisdiction of the capital.

Reforms

The chief task of the new Government will be to push through the remaining elements of the constitutional reform package that gives a limited amount of autonomy to the Flemish and Walloon language communities, leaving Brussels itself as an officially bilingual enclave.

It is not yet clear whether or not M. Eyskens will continue as Prime Minister, although he is almost certain that the Social Christians and the Socialists will again form a coalition Government.

Picasso ban protest

From our Correspondent

Madrid, November 19

HUNDREDS of Spaniards today sent a letter to the Minister of Information, protesting against the Spanish Government's ban on a planned homage to Pablo Picasso at the University of Madrid. It was disclosed here today.

The protest letter, signed by 369 lawyers, artists, journalists, and university professors, also demanded the immediate release of Señor Jose Maria Moreno Galvan, an author and art critic, who is being held in prison because he defied the ban. The letter said that the ban and the arrest were "an insult to freedom of expression and a violation of basic human rights."

Señor Moreno was due to address about 1,000 students in a lecture hall at Madrid's University City on October 25, to commemorate Picasso's nineteenth birthday. This lecture was approved by the university authorities, but Government officials decided at the last moment that the meeting should not take place.

Señor Moreno was arrested and has been held, without trial, about £1,500.

Gaullists' image a thorny question for congress

From NESTA ROBERTS: Paris, November 19

Gaullism is a faith not a doctrine: the UDR (Union of Democrats for the Fifth Republic), which constitutes the majority in the French National Assembly, is a movement not a party. Can a faith endure if the prophet having departed, it does not establish a doctrine? More urgently, can a movement compete on equal electoral terms with the firm structure, the clear dogma and the personalised leadership of the traditional political party?

That is the problem which hangs over the national congress of the UDR, the first since the death of General de Gaulle, which is this week assembling some 6,000 of the faithful at Strasbourg. In the recent past there have been a number of defections in the UDR, those of M. Christian Fouchet, a former Minister whose Gaullist allegiance dates from June 18, 1940, of M. Jacques Vendroux, a brother-in-law of the General, and of M. Jean-Marcel Jeanneney, architect of the plan for regionalisation on which De Gaulle staked his political future and lost, and of M. David Rousset, a Gaullist of the left.

On the horizon, at latest in the

spring of 1973 and more probably in the autumn or even the spring of next year, are the general elections.

When, less than a week ago, two leading Gaullists, M. Jacques Chirac, Minister responsible for relations with Parliament, and M. Alain Chalon, Minister for Equipment, voiced publicly the diametrically opposite views on the future of the UDR which were within the movement, the stage seemed set for political drama rather than traditional piety at Strasbourg.

M. Chirac told parliamentary journalists that the Prime Minister was ex-officio the leader of the UDR and that to seek an elected president would be contrary both to Gaullist doctrine and to the statute of the movement. Twenty-four hours later M. Chalon, addressing the same audience, said that the UDR should give itself a new president, and a political programme, instead of regarding the Prime Minister as its leader and being avowed to nothing much more rigid than support of the President of the Republic and the Government in their efforts for the good of the country.

He stressed to the political bureau of the Gaullist group that the UDR must remain a movement, and that to allow it to become a party like any other would mean encouraging a return to the old ways of the Fourth Republic, with its warring factions. The philosophy behind this is that the UDR claims to draw its support from all sections of society, rather than being identified with any particular group.

Unchanged

Accordingly M. Chalon has discovered Ministerial duties which prevent his attending the Strasbourg conference and the Prime Minister's closing speech on Sunday is likely to find the UDR recharged with loyalty, enthusiasm and brotherly love but unchanged in character. It will continue to present to observers from other countries a satisfying spectacle of a majority movement which has a right wing—the Independent Republicans—that keeps its own identity, and four left-wing groups, three of which recently united while the fourth had wanted anything to do with them; and which is supported by one section of the centre and opposed by another section. Although not a party, it will continue to enjoy the benefits of an electoral organisation, and the envy of many British political parties.

It will remain inspired by the memory of General de Gaulle but will not prove the most significant fact of the present conference—on the platform at Strasbourg this weekend the portrait of M. Pompidou is equal to that of the General, and being, as hitherto, discreetly lesser and definitely upstaged.

Plea made in DDT row

Rome, November 19

A senior official of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) made a plea today for rational moderation in the controversy between those who support and oppose the use of DDT.

The plea came from Dr Edouard Saouma, director of the land and water division, in a report to a commission of the FAO conference now meeting in the FAO's headquarters in Rome.

"Between certain hysterical and myopic environmentalists... and those who, in the name of absolute imperatives of development, would deny the very existence of the risks we take in speeding up food production, there is a place for useful work by FAO far from any polemic," Dr Saouma said. He was referring to the speech which opened the conference.

Dr Saouma said today: "In putting the accent on the more fundamental problems of conservation of natural resources and the maintenance of their capacity of production, in insisting on the necessity of pursuing research and technical training, and in the develop-

ment of systems of continuous surveillance, our organisation will be able to contribute usefully to resolve questions that are of interest both to the environment and to development."

After discussing the report, the commission recommended that FAO should take a leading role in the protection of the environment and in conserving natural resources at international level and also assist in protecting the vital interests of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

In Moscow Tass reported that Soviet scientists have found that micro-organisms in soil can break down DDT and render it harmless. Laboratory experiments had shown soil organisms could almost entirely eradicate DDT within a month, given the right conditions. — Reuters.

TELEVISION

YOU COULD try talking to your wife. Otherwise, the heavy brigade is out: three hours of "Royal Variety Performance" (ITV, 7.55, less News at 10) countered by even more of the birth-of-the-Israeli-ation epic "Exodus" (BBC-1, 7.25-10.45). Elsewhere, Sir Hugh Green does "One Man's Week" (BBC-2, 11.0).

BBC-1

- 9.0 a.m. Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan.
- 9.30 Wie biotte?
- 10.0-10.25 Zarabanda.
- 11.0 Seeing and Believing: What is Man?
- 11.35 Fact and Fiction.
- 12.00 Engineer's World.
- 12.25-12.50 p.m. Conflict at Work.
- 1.25 Farming.
- 1.50 The Gap.
- 2.15 Made in Britain: Bits and Pieces.
- 2.24 News.
- 2.25 Here's Lucy.
- 2.50 Film: "Sun Valley Serenade," with Glen Miller, Sonja Henie, John Payne.
- 4.15 Laurel and Hardy.
- 4.35 Walt Disney: Wonderful World of Colour.
- 5.30 Tom Brown's Schooldays: part 2.
- 6.5 News.
- 10.15 Chance to Meet Huw Wheldon, Managing Director, BBC Television.
- 6.55 Songs of Praise: Portsmouth Central Hall.
- 7.25 Film: "Exodus," with Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Ralph Richardson, Peter Lawford, Lee J. Cobb.
- 10.45 News.
- 10.55 Parkinson: with Ralph Richardson, Joanne Woodward.
- 11.40 Weather.

WALES (As BBC-1 except)

- 2.25 p.m. Thomas Owen. 3.15 Rugby Union: Aberllynnydd. 4.0 Caouli Bobol. 4.25 Tom and Jerry. 4.35-5.20 Star Trek. 6.55-7.25 Debrau Cam. Debrau Camm. 11.45 Weather. Close.

ENGLISH REGIONS.—11.42 p.m. Regional Weather. Close.

BBC-2

- 7.0 p.m. News.
- 7.25 World About Us: Brazil's Great North Road—Manaos to Georgetown.
- 8.25 Music on 2: Louis Kentner, Jeremy Menuhin play Mozart, Bartok.
- 9.10 Wives and Daughters.
- 10.0 Comedy Tonight: Talk of the Town, introduced by Roy Hudd.
- 10.45 Television Doctor: Heart Attack.
- 11.0 One Man's Week: Sir Hugh Green.
- 11.30 News.
- 11.35 Close.

ITV

LONDON WEEKEND

- 10.35 a.m. Jobs in the House and Garden.
- 11.0 Celebrated Mass: St Cuthbert's, Withington, Manchester.
- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game: Basketball, Netball.

12.55 Out of Town.

- 1.15 Captain Scarlet.
- 1.45 University Challenge.
- 2.15 Big Match.
- 3.15 Film: "House of the Seven Gables," with Robert Taylor.
- 4.45 Comedy Hour: with 5.35 Flaxton Boys.
- 6.5 News.
- 6.15 Freedom Roadshow.
- 7.0 Stars on Sunday.
- 7.25 On the Buses.
- 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).
- 10.15 News.
- 10.30 Royal Variety Performance (part 2).
- 11.0 Robert Kee interviews Danny Kaye.
- 11.20 On Reflection: Fenton Bressler on Sir Edward Marshall.
- 11.55 From the Grass Roots.

ANGLIA.—11.0 a.m. Celebrated Mass.

- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

SOUTHERN.—11.0 a.m. Celebrated Mass.

- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

Sunday

MIDLANDS (ATV)—11.0 a.m. Celebrated Mass.

- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

NORTHERN (Granada)—11.0 a.m. Celebrated Mass.

- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.

- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

HTV WALES (as above except).

- 12.5 p.m. Collecting on a Shoe-string.
- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).

HTV CYMRU/WALES.—12.5 p.m. Dan Sylw.

- 12.30 Rules of the Game.
- 1.25 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 1.45 People to People: Bulgaria. 2.15 Star Trek. 2.35 Film: "Highly Dangerous," with Margaret Lockwood, Dane Clark, Marius Goring. 3.15 Film: "The House of the Seven Gables." 3.35 Flaxton Boys. 6.5 News. 6.15 Freedom Roadshow. 7.0 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 On the Buses. 7.55 Royal Variety Performance (part 1).



Double take of Ralph Richardson: BBC-1 7.25 and 10.55

RADIO

RADIO 4 330 m.; VHF

- 7.50 a.m. Sunday Reading.
- 7.55 Weather. 8.0 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers. 8.20 Anna H. Gabor. 8.30 Sam. 8.40 News. 8.50 Weather. 9.0 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.20 Anna H. Gabor. 9.30 Sam. 9.40 News. 9.50 Weather. 10.0 News. 10.10 Sunday Papers. 10.20 Anna H. Gabor. 10.30 Sam. 10.40 News. 10.50 Weather. 11.0 News. 11.10 Sunday Papers. 11.20 Anna H. Gabor. 11.30 Sam. 11.40 News. 11.50 Weather. 12.0 News. 12.10 Sunday Papers. 12.20 Anna H. Gabor. 12.30 Sam. 12.40 News. 12.50 Weather. 1.0 News. 1.10 Sunday Papers. 1.20 Anna H. Gabor. 1.30 Sam. 1.40 News. 1.50 Weather. 2.0 News. 2.10 Sunday Papers. 2.20 Anna H. Gabor. 2.30 Sam. 2.40 News. 2.50 Weather. 3.0 News. 3.10 Sunday Papers. 3.20 Anna H. Gabor. 3.30 Sam. 3.40 News. 3.50 Weather. 4.0 News. 4.10 Sunday Papers. 4.20 Anna H. Gabor. 4.30 Sam. 4.40 News. 4.50 Weather. 5.0 News. 5.10 Sunday Papers. 5.20 Anna H. Gabor. 5.30 Sam. 5.40 News. 5.50 Weather. 6.0 News. 6.10 Sunday Papers. 6.20 Anna H. Gabor. 6.30 Sam. 6.40 News. 6.50 Weather. 7.0 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.20 Anna H. Gabor. 7.30 Sam. 7.40 News. 7.50 Weather. 8.0 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers. 8.20 Anna H. Gabor. 8.30 Sam. 8.40 News. 8.50 Weather. 9.0 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.20 Anna H. Gabor. 9.30 Sam. 9.40 News. 9.50 Weather. 10.0 News. 10.10 Sunday Papers. 10.20 Anna H. Gabor. 10.30 Sam. 10.40 News. 10.50 Weather. 11.0 News. 11.10 Sunday Papers. 11.20 Anna H. Gabor. 11.30 Sam. 11.40 News. 11.50 Weather. 12.0 News. 12.10 Sunday Papers. 12.20 Anna H. Gabor. 12.30 Sam. 12.40 News. 12.50 Weather. 1.0 News. 1.10 Sunday Papers. 1.20 Anna H. Gabor. 1.30 Sam. 1.40 News. 1.50 Weather. 2.0 News. 2.10 Sunday Papers. 2.20 Anna H. Gabor. 2.30 Sam. 2.40 News. 2.50 Weather. 3.0 News. 3.10 Sunday Papers. 3.20 Anna H. Gabor. 3.30 Sam. 3.40 News. 3.50 Weather. 4.0 News. 4.10 Sunday Papers. 4.20 Anna H. Gabor. 4.30 Sam. 4.40 News. 4.50 Weather. 5.0 News. 5.10 Sunday Papers. 5.20 Anna H. Gabor. 5.30 Sam. 5.40 News. 5.50 Weather. 6.0 News. 6.10 Sunday Papers. 6.20 Anna H. Gabor. 6.30 Sam. 6.40 News. 6.50 Weather. 7.0 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.20 Anna H

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HOME NEWS

Protests after vets attack 'knacker's yard' slaughtering

By JOHN WINDSOR

Meat slaughtered in Britain is more likely to cause food poisoning than meat slaughtered in Europe, leading members of the British Veterinary Association said at a press conference in London yesterday.

The association's council is recommending that British meat inspection regulations should match Common Market standards by January 1, 1973. One member spoke of slaughterhouses in Britain being "little better than knacker's yards."

Airlines avert war on fares

By DAVID FAIRHALL, Defence Correspondent

The threat of a fares war on the transatlantic air routes was averted yesterday at the annual general meeting of the International Air Transport Association in Honolulu, where the 24 airlines involved agreed on a minimum excursion fare between London and New York of £83 return—£29 less than at present.

But to achieve this agreement, which has been held up for months by Lufthansa's refusal to accept some of the complex fare structures, some airlines—particularly BOAC—have had to abandon the idea of giving discounts for advance bookings.

The compromise was reached after two days of hard bargaining in closed sessions. It is expected to become effective after Government approval on February 1 or April 1 next year.

Each of the basic types of fare (normal first or economy class, 22 to 45-day excursion, group and youth) will now be offered within a three-tiered structure. Winter rates will be charged from November 1 to March 1, peak rates from June 1 to August 31 (east bound) and July 1 to September 30 (west bound), with "basic" rates at all other times.

The normal economy class return ticket from London to New York will range from £160 (a reduction of £20.80) in the winter to £220.80 during the

peak season (the same as the present rate).

The big reductions come in the 22 to 45-day excursion fares of £83 (winter), £91 (basic), and £121 (peak). Youth fares will be the same as the excursion rate but without the time limitation. Group rates for 30 to 40 people travelling together will be £72 return (winter), £80 (basic) and £112 (peak).

In general these fares are lower than present rates, but not as low as some of those proposed by individual airlines, for example by Lufthansa, to meet growing charter competition. The problem for big airlines like Pan American and TWA, burdened with excess capacity, is to generate new traffic to fill their empty jumbo jet seats without losing money unnecessarily on seats they can already sell.

The IATA meeting chose Mr Keith Granville, chairman of BOAC, as its next president. He will take office at the association's annual meeting in London in September 1972. The following year's meeting will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr Granville said that at last the scheduled airline industry had shown its ability to meet the demand for lower fares, for which BOAC had been pressing. He thought that the £83 fare would produce a boom in traffic next year to both sides of the Atlantic.

Leader comment, page 12

Labour limbers up for attack

By CHRISTINE EADE

The Labour Party limbered up yesterday for its major campaign debate on the Government on Tuesday for allowing unemployment to rise to 970,000. Mrs Castle, Shadow Minister for Employment, will open the debate and will be answered by Mr Barber, Chancellor of the Exchequer, leaving Mr Jenkins, the Shadow Chancellor, and Mr Carr, the Employment Secretary, to wind up the debate.

Labour MPs collected signatures from 150 of their colleagues, who signed a motion on yesterday's Order Paper warning the Government that unemployment was heading for the 1.5 million mark, unless a policy of full employment was made the first priority.

Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Poplar, took up this mood of anger when he went to Lincoln House to give the straight "Tribune" Group line to the meeting of Labour and trade union groups.

"The Government's determination to keep the unemployment figures up to a million, damage any economic recovery it causes, isn't just an accident, it's an essential part of their total strategy," he said. "Combined with the Industrial Relations Act, it is designed to weaken the power of the unions to negotiate increases in wages which are needed to keep up with spiralling prices and with the spiralling rents that are coming very soon."

He argued that the Government would not refit the economy, increase the policy of growth would increase imports and cut the balance of payments reserve needed to cover the costs of entering the Common Market.

"To Mr Heath the unemployed don't matter as long as he can pursue his dreams of European grandeur," Mr Mikardo concluded.

Workers idle

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for West Piff, said the opportunity of Government business ending early in the Commons yesterday and raised the problem of Scottish unemployment. He predicted a possible total of 200,000 unemployed in Scotland by the end of March and said that 20,000 now applied for every vacant job in Scotland. While building workers were idle, local authorities refused to build houses, knowing that people could not find work elsewhere, which the Government were to charge.

Mr Alec Buchanan, Scottish Labour MP, said that Mr Hamilton had overstated his argument, and other Conservative MPs gave their own slant to the problem. Mr John Boyd-Carpenter, Conservative MP for Kingston-upon-Thames, told a business lunch at Chichester that the remedy was to cut taxes. This would lead to a more dynamic, enterprising, and more industrial real encouragement to expand, he said, adding that earlier tax reductions still left Britain with the heaviest tax burden in the world.

Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP and chairman of the Liberal Party, suggested that the remedy could be a shorter working week, a wider spread of paid holidays, and a cut-back in overtime.

'Walking-stick' gun death was suicide

A verdict of suicide was recorded by the Westminster coroner yesterday on Ross Gordon Hutton Fox, aged 21, who was found shot dead in Hyde Park on Monday.

The inquest was told that Mr Fox, a salesman at Harrod's, who recently moved to London from his home in Church Road, Aspley Heath, Blitchley, was fascinated by guns. He rebuilt a three-foot long "walking-stick" gun—the weapon with which he killed himself.

His father, Mr Peter Fox, said "After he got over the initial excitement of living in London, the world was going well for him. He was very

interested in guns and he had an air rifle and a sporting gun which he bought the walking stick.

"It had no stock when he bought it, so he found out what stock it should have and had one made. He was a very good shot."

Detective Chief Superintendent James Neville said he found the letter with a seal of a fox in red wax at the dead man's flat in Neville Terrace, Kensington, stating his intention to kill himself. The coroner, Mr C. H. Beaumont, recording that Mr Fox killed himself while suffering from depression, said the case indicated personal problems.

Chemists are likely to be strongly opposed to any move by the Government to introduce National Health Service prescription charges geared directly to the total cost of the national drugs bill.

They will regard it with hardly more favour than they did the suggestion that charges be regulated by the cost of drugs issued to individual patients, which the Government dismissed earlier this week.

The Department of Health and Social Security yesterday refused to confirm or deny a report in the "Medical News" paper that the Government is considering this idea after the pressure from the medical profession that caused it to drop the earlier one. But it is understood that there are unlikely to be any direct moves in the

More councils may face milk charge

By JACKIE LEISEMAN

Members of three more Scottish councils may be surcharged for supplying illegal free milk to primary schoolchildren. Mr Gordon Campbell, the Secretary of State for Scotland, is waiting to hear the reasons why Dundee, Ayr, and Dumfries and Galloway council members have defied Mrs Thatcher's ban on free milk.

If the reasons are not satisfactory—and this seems likely at least in the case of Dundee—a warning similar to the one handed out to 25 Highland council members this week of a surcharge of £164.90 each will apply to other councils who continue to authorise the milk.

Members of Merthyr Tydfil council met the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Thomas, in Cardiff last night to discuss their attitude towards free milk. The council is openly defying the Education (Milk) Act, which is supposed to save the Government £9 million a year, and according to its deputy education officer members have been aware of the possibilities of a surcharge since they took their decision.

A spokesman at Ayr said that members of the council had received letters asking them to submit reasons for their decision to defy the Act. The letter had followed the auditor's report to Mr Campbell, who said the council was apparently illegally spending money on milk.

No decision on a reply to Mr Campbell has yet been taken, but the position is likely to be reviewed at the monthly meeting next week, when the council will hear a decision by the Association of County Councils.

At Dunbarton, a council spokesman said that if Mr Campbell tried to deal with the council in the same way

as in Midlothian he would find he had "taken the tiger by the tail."

Dunbarton's problems did not stop at the school milk supply. It had areas where unemployment had reached 12 and 13 per cent, it had 12 and 13 per cent of the Labour group on the council particularly had accumulated a mass of grievances against the Government.

"There are a lot of people up here just waiting for the fight. There are a lot of pent-up feelings," the spokesman said.

Dunbarton councillors voted 33 in favour of continuing the free milk supply and 27 against, but among those who voted against there was a lot of sympathy for keeping the supply open. "It was just a matter of who was prepared to defy the law," the council's public relations officer said. Councillors were warned by the clerk and the treasurer what the consequences would, or might be.

The bill for the illegal milk will amount to an extra £45,000 over a full year. At present, the supply is being going in defiance of the Act for six or seven weeks. The next meeting of the council is on Wednesday, but so far there is nothing about school milk on the agenda.

Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons on Wednesday that local education authorities in England were providing the milk contrary to the provisions of the Act. However, some authorities—at least 11 in London—are providing free milk by raising the money on the old 1d rate.

"They can do this under the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act, 1963, which allows them to raise money in the interests of the community. Other authorities have got around Mrs Thatcher's ban by obtaining certificates on medical grounds which enables the children to get their milk."

Use of force 'necessary'

By our Correspondent

Evidence was completed at Leeds Assizes yesterday in the trial of a police sergeant and a former police inspector accused of assaulting the Nigerian, David Oluwele, whose body was found in the River Aire in May 1968. Mr Justice Hinchcliffe adjourned the trial until Monday when the closing speeches will be heard.

The judge has ruled that he will direct the jury to return verdicts of not guilty against both men on the charges of manslaughter causing grievous bodily harm, and committing perjury.

The former inspector, Geoffrey Elkerker, faces five charges of assaulting Mr Oluwele. Sergeant Kenneth Kitching (49), of Blakeney Grove, Leeds, is accused of four assault charges. Both have pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Re-examining Kitching yesterday, Mr Gilbert Gray QC, asked: "On any occasion that you used force on Oluwele, was it necessary in the course of your duty?" Kitching replied: "It was necessary in the course of duty. Had his behaviour been different he would have been treated properly."

Cross examined by Mr John Cobb, QC, prosecuting, Kitching

agreed that he had told off PC Briggs for arresting Mr Oluwele alone. He said: "I think the term I used was 'You will get bloody well killed for going in there on your own.' He was a young and inexperienced officer and my only concern was for Briggs."

Kitching maintained the only reason he had radioed Elkerker when he found Mr Oluwele was to inform him of the situation. "If I did radio him it would be to tell him that one of the worst nuisances in the division was still on our patch," he said.

Inspector Elkerker was eager to know of any unusual circumstances in the division. I would not say he was eager to know of Oluwele."

Mr Cobb asked Kitching if he had ever done anything which was kind to Mr Oluwele, such as directing him to Bradford where there was a reception centre.

Kitching replied: "If you knew Oluwele as I knew him, you would know that you would never get a message like that over to him. But the mental health and social services had shelved their responsibilities. He was a social problem."

Kitching denied that he had "subdued" Mr Oluwele on January 26, 1969, in such a way that Mr Oluwele was incapable of standing up properly. He questioned on an alleged assault on Mr Oluwele in a doorway on April 18 Kitching denied that he struck Mr Oluwele on the forehead. Asked about the evidence of PC Batty, who has said that he saw Kitching uniting on Mr Oluwele, Kitching denied that anything of this nature had taken place.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Fire kills 3

Three children—aged four, three and two—died in a fire in their bedroom in a house in Winslow Green, Birmingham, yesterday. A policeman was unsuccessful in his efforts to help Mrs Edward Nesbeth save her children.

11 borders redefined

The Commons yesterday appointed a sub-committee of 11 to redefine 11 groups of parliamentary constituencies. They are: Bromley; Abingdon and Newbury; Stockport; Richmond-upon-Thames; Twickenham and Esher; Southwark; Hertford; Stevenage; Hitchin; Bosworth and Loughborough; Leicester South and Harborough; Blyth and Hexham; Bromsgrove, Redditch and Stratford-on-Avon; Swindon and Devizes.

The orders were approved in the Lords earlier this week.

No backers for prescription plan

By Dennis Barker

matter of prescription charges for some time.

The cost of supplying drugs under the National Health Service has been steadily rising by around 10 per cent a year for the past decade, and last year reached a record figure of £168.1 million spent on fewer prescriptions than were issued in 1964. The Government's aim is to find a way of balancing prescription charges against cost without penalising poor people and without creating unnecessary administrative difficulties.

Gearing the standard prescription charge to the total national drugs bill would obviously be a possible way of meeting this aim, and would cause less administrative

trouble than making chemists vary charges for different types of prescription.

But Mr John Ferguson, assistant secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, which represents retail chemists, said yesterday: "The administration would be extremely difficult all the same." Chemists had to carry large stocks of drugs on which people who had special financial difficulties could claim back prescription money. If the price of prescriptions was varied from year to year according to the national drugs bill, it would lead to confusion with the forms.

"If you are going to increase prescriptions by 4 per cent, you are going to come up with some very odd charges, and if the

Government rounded it off to 5 per cent, they would be encouraging everyone else to do the same with prices," Mr Ferguson said.

Mr George Teeling-Smith, director of the Office of Health Economics, said he strongly doubted whether the Government would decide on a "floating" prescription charge. "It would be hopeless to do this every year in drabs and drabs, as the drugs bill rises by the average 10 per cent. Twenty years this year and 22 next year would be quite ridiculous." He thought the Government might wait and then move the charge up to 25 per cent.

The British Medical Association said: "The BMA is against prescription charges based on what sort of drugs the patient has, because it could militate against people who can least afford it."

PERSONAL

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MORE PERSONAL ON PAGE 15

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS

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BIRTHS

KAYE—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Kaye, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

SAMUELS—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Samuels, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

WILLIAMS—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Williams, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

DEATHS (continued)

AGATE—Mrs. E. AGATE, 1958-1971. Aged 72. Died at home, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. Buried at St. Mary's, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS.

BRIDGE—Mr. BRIDGE, 1918-1971. Aged 53. Died at home, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. Buried at St. Mary's, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS.

DEATHS

HAGUE—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Hague, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

WILLIAMS—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Williams, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

WILLIAMS—On November 19, 1971, to Mrs. Williams, 10, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3PS. A daughter, Emily.

MARKET PLACE continued

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Europe or isolation for islanders

From MALCOLM STUART in Jersey

CHANNEL ISLANDERS learned from Mr Geoffrey Rippon yesterday the alternative to accepting the Common Market terms he had negotiated for them. Any island which refused the terms would "sever the links" with the United Kingdom and become totally independent. Mr Rippon made no mention of this in speeches to the island assemblies in Guernsey and Jersey, but at a press conference after the first speech he admitted that this would be the situation. The same choice is open to the Isle of Man.

Most of the 120,000 Channel Islanders had assumed that a decision to keep clear of the Common Market would merely result in paying tariffs to export their produce to Britain. They anticipated that they would still be able to retain the other links and protections. In Jersey it was pointed out to Mr Rippon that a long line of charters and treaties exists between the island and the UK. Mr Rippon replied: "We have negotiated with the EEC for the maintenance of these charter rights. The arrangements are not satisfactory to Jersey then they would have to choose to 'undermine those rights'."

The island assemblies have only four weeks in which to decide. Mr Rippon told the deputies that the wanted to sign the accession treaty by the end of the year and this meant that there had to be a final agreement about the Community offer concerning the islands by mid-December. The islanders now feel that they have little choice but to

accept the Common Market terms, which they say are better than they had hoped. There is, however, resentment that they have so little time to consider the question of taking independence.

"I don't feel like a foreigner," said Mr Lionel Phillips, one of the 24 members of the Chief Pleas of Sark, who travelled by boat to Guernsey to hear Mr Rippon. "I don't think we could afford the plane fare to send our representative to the United Nations and if we had to raise our own army we might have to introduce income tax. So it looks as if we are going to accept. But I wish we had more than a month. Sark people like to take their time before they decide anything even though there are only 540 of us. It's a big decision to take whether to become the smallest country in the world."

In Jersey there was some anger. "We consider that our treaty with Britain, which dates back to 1592, legally guarantees our present relationship to have free access to the United Kingdom markets," said Mr Ted Vibert of the Jersey anti-Market lobby. The Concerned Group of Residents. "We consider that in law if we reject the Market terms then our relationship should merely continue. There has been no mention until today that Westminster would do a UDI on us."

Generally, the terms obtained by Mr

Rippon impressed island representatives. The islands only obligation to the EEC would be to apply tariffs on exports from third countries and there is a possibility that this money would be sent to Brussels. It is likely that some clauses of the common agricultural policy would apply, but Mr Rippon admitted that the details had to be clarified.

Value added tax will not apply to the islands in any form. Exports from the EEC will be able to claim back a full rebate of the tax on goods sent to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Otherwise, there will be free trade in both directions. The fiscal autonomy has been guaranteed, and some islanders believe that this will encourage even more offshore investments, already worth £500 millions a year in Jersey alone.

Islanders will have the unrestricted right to work in Britain but will be able to apply their own immigration controls and housing restrictions equally to British and other EEC nationals.

"I cannot conceal from you my belief that we could not have secured better terms," Mr Rippon told the deputies in Guernsey. Some people have expressed the view that they are too good to be true and there might be a snag somewhere. But I haven't seen one."

Mr Rippon said that during the negotiations he had to withhold information from the islanders so as not to show his hand to the EEC. There was no question of being able to renegotiate any of the points.

Senior members of all the assemblies believe their islands will accept the terms, but the sudden thought of a local independence is likely to lead to some serious discussion. Already there is talk of a commercial television station to serve Northern France and a medium wave commercial radio station for Britain. Each of the Channel Islands could become free ports for all of Europe and for the Manx there would be the possible opportunity for a commercial television station which would cover industrial Lancashire and much of Ireland. "I think we should try it for five years," said Mr Vibert. "I think Britain owes us enough to take us back if it doesn't work. We could, of course, apply to join the Commonwealth so that our status seekers could still receive their knighthoods."

The only idea that seems completely out of the question is a federation of the Channel Islands. "Even if we voted for independence, which I don't believe we shall, I can't see any link up between us," said Mr Edward Collas, president of Guernsey's advisory and finance committee. "We are all very different people," he said. Sark's 24 representatives went past, many of them chatting in their private brand of Norman French.

NUS steps up 'war' against finance plan

By JOHN EZARD

The National Union of Students turned its skirmishing with the Government into furious verbal warfare yesterday. The 500,000-strong union opened its annual conference at Margate last night without getting the answer it had demanded to its "20 questions" on the plan to hand over financial control of 700 student unions to college authorities.

Its leadership accused the Government of trying to provoke the conference into a display of "frenzied" and "publicly damaging rage. In the angriest speech from an NUS leader since the war, Mr Jack Straw, outgoing president, told delegates that the Education Secretary, Mrs Thatcher, must expect the whirlwind of student opposition if she persisted in a " cynical " plan which threatened the union's very existence. "The NUS is engaged in a battle that it can and must win," Mr Straw said. "No one will

ever know for certain why Mrs Thatcher is dancing Salome-like before the Cabinet and asking for the head of Digby Jakes (NUS president-elect) on a platter. But I believe one factor is her plain, stubborn ignorance."

The Government consultative document would effectively place college union affiliation to the NUS within the discretion of the academic authorities. The union believes that this proposal aims deliberately at downgrading its status as a body which at present negotiates for students on issues such as grants and discipline with the Government and with college heads.

Its deep suspicion was fanned yesterday by a preconference letter from Mr van Straubenzee, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Higher Education.

Mr van Straubenzee wrote that he could not, as the NUS had asked, elaborate on points in the document before conference because he did not wish to prejudice future consultations and negotiations.

He added: "I entirely appreciate that a number of questions arise which need to be discussed fully and carefully with students (including I hope the NUS), as with other organisations."

This form of words suggested to NUS officers, as they prepared to leave London for Margate, that the downgrading had already begun.

Mr Straw said in a statement that it was public knowledge that the Department of Education and Science had promised to answer its queries so that these could be discussed at conference. "Less than eight hours before conference, the Government has sent the NUS a provocative and cursory letter," Mr Straw said.

"One might almost suppose the letter was designed to provoke an already angry conference into frenzied rage—thereby discrediting the NUS. We know we have a good case. We know the Government has not. We will not be provoked."

In his speech, Mr Straw said: "Mrs Thatcher's new deal will permanently embitter this generation of students."

The NUS belief that the Government had promised a detailed reply appeared to be based on a conversation between a journalist and a Department of Education official. Last night the official said he stated only that some answer would be given before conference. The official believed the journalist had understood his words in the correct sense.

Whip promoted

Lord Denham, aged 44, an assistant Whip in the Lords, has taken over the duties of assistant Government Chief Whip from Lord Goschen, aged 65, who retired yesterday for health reasons.

Rolls-Royce talks fail

Talks to break the deadlock in the three-week unofficial strike by Rolls-Royce manual workers in Bristol have failed. Management, shop stewards, and union officials could discover no formula for ending the dispute, over a cost of living claim.

A statement by the Rolls-Royce Bristol Engine Division yesterday said that there had been a frank exchange of views, and confirmed its willingness to talk again as soon as the 6,000 strikers resumed normal work. The men, most of whom work on Concorde and Harrier engines, are not due to meet until Tuesday.

Officials of the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Administrative Staffs at Bristol denied last night an allegation that their members were "blacklegging" in the strike.

A Transport and General Workers' Union delegate claimed at a meeting of the Bristol Trades Council that ASTMS members were supervising the operation of boilers and undertaking electrical work.

The company fears damage to computer-controlled equipment unless a minimum heat is kept up in the workshops. Mr Geoffrey Mainwaring, divisional officer of ASTMS, said: "Our members are being exceedingly careful that only absolutely necessary safety work is being done."

Full production was resumed yesterday at the two Triumph factories in Liverpool after Thursday's 24-hour stoppage over the dismissal of three men.

A strike by 260 press operators at British Leyland's car body factory in Oxford was called off yesterday. The men decided to accept a union recommendation, and return on Monday.

Hopes were rising in Birmingham yesterday for an early settlement to a busmen's pay dispute, which has led to a series of lightning 24-hour strikes throughout the Midlands on a claim for a rise of £2.50 a week, back-dated to October 1. A settlement is expected in a few days.

Sewell remand

Five London men, including Frederick Joseph Sewell, were further remanded in custody until Friday at Blackpool yesterday charged with the murder of Superintendent Gerald Richardson on August 23. They also face four charges of attempting to murder police officers, robbery, and firearms offences.

The other four were Charles Henry Haynes (43), of Argyle Street, King's Cross; George Bond (43), of Aristotle Road, Clapham; John Patrick Spry (37), of Overfield Road, Stratford Hill; and Thomas Farrell Flannigan (43), of Grahame Road, Hackney. Chief Inspector Eric Cheatham said committal proceedings had been fixed to start on November 29.

Yard chief tells of Angry Brigade interview

A Scotland Yard detective denied yesterday that he told one of the two accused in the Angry Brigade trial that his cell-mates had told him "right or wrong."

Cannabis haul up

Almost twice as much cannabis has already been seized by Customs this year as in the whole of 1970, Mr Cecil Porter, deputy Chief Inspector, HM Customs and Excise, said in London yesterday.

The haul so far this year is 765lb, compared with just under 2,000lb last year, he told Royal Society of Health pharmaceutical group dinner. The black market value of cannabis is at least £100 a pound.

Garage liable for damage

A man left a £900 car at a garage for repair, and it was badly damaged in a fire caused by the garage owner's negligence, an Appeal Court judge said yesterday.

A county court judge had decided that the car owner, Mr Walter Hollier, of Fulham Road, Fulham, was not entitled to damages because of an exclusion clause on a garage invoice which stated: "The company

who gave evidence yesterday as Mr A and Mr B, and then told Prescott: "They have put you right in it. You will do us fine." Mr Habershon replied: "No, sir."

Prescott (26), a decorator of Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, and Ian Purdie (24), him technician of Tyneham Road, Wandsworth, have both denied conspiring with others to cause explosions. Prescott alone, has pleaded not guilty in causing an explosion at the Department of Employment in St. James's Square, London, and at the home of Mr Carr, the Employment Secretary, at Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Mr Habershon told the jury that Purdie, who was arrested on March 6, said in reply to his first question: "You are going to let me up because I am an anarchist, the same as you have done to Jack Prescott." He asked to see a solicitor, but Mr Habershon told him he had discretion in the matter, and did not propose to allow it.

Purdie replied: "In that case I will do without, but you will get nothing out of me."

Mr Habershon referred to the series of explosions, which, he said, appeared to have an anarchistic motivation, and

Purdie told him: "You will be lucky if there aren't some more."

Reference was made to letters signed "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" after the bombing of the home of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir John Wadlow. Purdie was alleged to have said: "I'll bet that made the pigs run round in circles."

Asked about the explosions at Mr Carr's home, he said: "If you think I did it, why don't you charge me?"

Mr Duncan suggested that a number of the statements Mr Habershon had given were in the wrong form, and that some things that were said had not been referred to at all. Mr Habershon said: "I will not say it is a verbatim note, but it deals with all I thought to be relevant."

He saw Prescott for the first time on February 11 and had no clear recollection of his asking to see a solicitor. He denied that Prescott had said: "I have been asked off the street and held for about six hours. I want to make a phone call and I want to contact a lawyer."

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Screw on EEC rebels

By KEITH HARPER

Transport House is preparing to crack the whip against Labour MPs who do not support the party's policy on the Common Market.

After next week's meeting of the national executive committee, Sir Harry Nicholas, general secretary, will almost certainly be empowered to write to constituency parties whose members have expressed the Labour in its fight to prevent the enabling Common Market legislation from getting through Parliament.

A motion by Mr Alec Kitson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, published this week, shows that the running sore within the party is far from healed. The Left wing might have been tempted to let matters rest for the time being, but when Mr Jenkins was so closely challenged by Mr Foot in the second ballot for the deputy leadership, it decided to maintain the pressure.

Mr Kitson's motion asks the NEC to instruct Sir Harry to inform local parties of any member who "does not act in conformity with agreed policy." Mr Kitson also wants a special meeting between the NEC and the Parliamentary Labour Party at which unity would be put above everything else.

A letter from Sir Harry to a local party would not by itself compel it to reprimand an MP. What a local party does is its own affair. Mr Douglas Houghton, its constituency, Sowerby, for instance, has chosen to forgo his right of defiance on October 28, while the Lincoln party has expressed a lack of confidence in its MP, Mr Dick Taverner.

Mr Kitson's motion is designed to put Mr Roy Jenkins and Mrs Shirley Williams, the two leading pro-Market leaders on the spot.

Murder charge

Maurice Edwin George Dwyer (20), an employee of High Anderson Road, Millbrook, Cornwall, was committed in custody at Torpoint, Devon, yesterday for trial at the next Plymouth Crown Court, charged with the murder in September, last year, of Robin Wadman, aged 28.

RAC rally starts today

By our Motoring Correspondent

The RAC international rally starts from Harrogate at 11 a.m. today. The 2,500-mile route will go as far north as Grantown-on-Spey and south to the London end of the M1 in 42 days on competitive driving.

Among the 429 entrants in the rally, sponsored by the Daily Mirror, are last year's winners, Harry Kallstrom and Gunna Hagbom, of Sweden, driving a works-entered Lancia. Other leading foreign teams are Saab, Porsche, Alpine, Renault, and Datsun.



Cash for coins

A TREASURE TROVE of ancient coins which may have been salted away by a robber or nobleman 500 years ago are to be handed over to the British Museum. The nine coins—worth about £1,000 to collectors—were the subject of an inquest at Southwark Coroner's Court yesterday to determine the rightful owner. They included rose nobles, angels and archangels issued in the reign of Edward IV and Henry VII and were unearthed in the rubble foundations of the old Tudor Palace at Greenwich, now the site of the Royal Naval College, during an archaeological dig.

The finders Mr Philip Dixon, of New College, Oxford (36), and a four-man team will be re-imposed by the Crown for the equivalent cash value today—about £500. When they were issued their total value was £2.50.

Mr John Charlton principal inspector of ancient monuments with the Department of the Environment, said: "The coins may have been hidden by the Duke of Gloucester for safe keeping in his home which was on the same site and demolished 50 years before the building of the Royal Palace in about 1499."

Plan to reorganise building industry

A new plan for the building industry was laid before the Government yesterday. The TUC asked Mr Julian Amery, Minister for Construction Industries, to consider setting up a public procurement corporation.

It would be responsible for placing all construction contracts—for national as well as local government—and for the nationalised industries.

This, claimed the representatives of the TUC construction industry committee, would be a big step towards rationalising the present unwieldy structure of the building industry. It would make it easier for the larger, more efficient firms to operate, and this in turn could lead to lower costs for public sector construction work.

It would ensure an even spread of work in London and the regions and help firms to build up a stable work force with a greater sense of security and more permanent relationships. Quality of work and productivity would also rise, meaning higher earnings for workers.

Tenants 'fear landlords'

By our own Reporter

Many poorly-off tenants who are overcharged for rents by private landlords are too frightened of harassment to recoup the excess by temporarily not paying rent—as the law allows, the Child Poverty Action Group said in a report yesterday.

The group claims that there is nothing in the Government's Housing Finance Bill to stop this continuing. It says fear of landlords is particularly

evident "among women who are bringing up children on their own, and who have been allowed to stay on after desertion by the children's father, as long as they pay rent and keep quiet. They know they would never find another unfurnished tenancy."

The group stresses that in some cases there have been already two or three unlawful increases in the rent in as many

years—and the Bill cannot stop this.

The Bill provides many more opportunities for exploitation in the private sector, the report concludes. This was predictable "since it is largely based on the majority report of the Francis Committee, which took much evidence from London's biggest landlords—the very landlords who, on their own admission, are 'disregarding' the rent-freezing provisions of the current Rent Act."

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£65,000 award for railway

COMPENSATION of £65,000 was awarded to a Welsh private railway company against the Central Electricity Generating Board in London yesterday after a legal battle lasting 16 years.

The Ffestiniog Railway Company had claimed £152,000 for loss of revenue since 1955 when the board was allowed to flood a section of the line for a reservoir. The board offered £25,000.

Mr Herbert Hobbs, giving judgment at the Lands Tribunal, assessed loss of profits at £59,693. Costs dating from 1962, when a previous legal hearing ended in the Court of Appeal, were estimated to run into thousands of pounds.

It is possible that the case may go to the Court of Appeal again. After the judgment, the C.E.G.B.'s solicitors said: "The question of appeal, particularly in relation to compensation, will be discussed."

Mr John Routly, railway director responsible for legal matters, said the company expected to have to spend £245,000 on reinstating the line.

"The deficiency will have to be met by voluntary effort and funds from sources other than those from which morally if not legally they should be derived," said Mr Routly.

The company took over the 147-year-old narrow gauge railway between Portmadoc and Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1954. They run trains between Portmadoc and Ddaniell. Their plans to restore the line between Ddaniell and Blaenau Ffestiniog were thwarted by the flooding.

In 1950 the railway lost a claim to the Lands Tribunal for reinstatement of the line elsewhere and this decision was upheld in 1962 by the Court of Appeal. During the six-day hearing in October this year, agreement was reached on a route to the west of the reservoir.

Other long running British legal battles include the trial of Warren Hastings, which took nine years, and the Tibbott case, which took 13½ years.

Accused clerk 'was given training in espionage by Lyalin'

A Malaysian with a "clear hatred" of Britain was sent by the Russian spy Oleg Lyalin to collect squashed beer cans from various dead letter boxes, probably as part of a "training run," Mr John Buzzard, prosecuting, alleged at Bow Street Court yesterday.

The man, Sirioj Abdoorceder, 33, a clerk in the Greater London Council's vehicle licensing department, had also been sent on another mission to put a heavy briefcase in a car, but he had failed to find the car, Mr Buzzard claimed.

Abdoorceder, of Anson Road, Cricklewood, London, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey on two charges of conspiracy by obtaining information which might be useful to an enemy and one of obtaining information which might be useful to an enemy. The prosecution did not proceed on a fourth charge of obtaining an article which might be useful to an enemy.

Mr Buzzard said that Abdoorceder had been given a present from Lyalin of an electric razor inscribed "To our dearest Sirioj on his birthday."

Lyalin had devised an emergency communications system between them, involving the posting of a birthday card, which in fact was never used, and Abdoorceder had been sent to collect squashed beer cans from various "dead letter boxes" in Portsmouth.

The collecting of the cans and another mission to deposit a very heavy briefcase in a car at Portsmouth might have been "training runs," Mr Buzzard continued. The defendant's dominant motive "was clearly hatred of this country and a desire to assist its enemies."

That was apparent from his diaries.

Mr Buzzard said that on September 17 police saw the defendant at York and found on him three lists of car registration numbers and a card, on the back of which was written the name "O. Lyalin" with the address in Highgate, London, of the Soviet Trade Delegation.

He claimed that in 1967 he had been approached by Lyalin's predecessor, Vladislav Savin. The Russian had given the defendant car registration numbers asking him to find out who the owners were. In some cases the numbers were on a special list.

The information that would be of use to Russian intelligence would be the fact that a number was on the special list, and the reason for this is that vehicles were put on this list to prevent particulars on the owners being readily available to the public," Mr Buzzard continued. Numbers on the special list included those of cars used by the security services.

Apart from the lists there were also a list of 55 numbers, not given to him by the Russians, but compiled presumably by the defendant going through the files and noting those numbers on the special list.

At Abdoorceder's home police found telephone numbers, more registration numbers, Communist literature, and other books including "Kim Philby, the Spy I Loved."

The officers told him they were satisfied he had committed an offence under the Official Secrets Act. He was cautioned and said: "I was a bloody fool. It was only for fun," Mr Buzzard alleged.

At the police station, however, he gave a somewhat different explanation. "They forced me to do these things. I will tell you the truth. The dirty rotten swines forced me to do it. These Russian swines blackmailed me into it."

Reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of Mr Richard Hawkins, defending. Part of the hearing was in camera.

The trial continues on Monday.

October 8, the prosecution said that 24 policemen were injured in a riot during a demonstration against the Mangrove Restaurant in All Saints Road, Notting Hill, Black Panther flags were carried. Charges of causing grievous bodily harm, wounding and assault, have been denied by four of the defendants. Six have denied possessing offensive weapons.

Rupert Glasgow Boyce (23), railwayman of Home Park Road, Wimbledon, who is accused of wounding and assault and possessing an offensive weapon, said he decided to go on the demonstration because he was not satisfied with police behaviour in Notting Hill.

He did not carry any banner or placard but held a flag in Ladbrooke Grove for 10 to 15 minutes at the request of another demonstrator who said he was tired.

The trial continues on Monday.

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A PAT ON THE BACK
Gillian Reynolds
reviews radio

THE FRAMED TEXT on his mantel-piece says "education is the organised development and equipment of all the powers of a human being." If you add the words "and it is a slum child's steep but only ladder to the meritocracy," you have an expression of the faith which—in this headmaster—runs much deeper into the marrow of his commitment than does even his Catholicism.

From one of the dirt poorest, most traditional, sectarian and violent catchment areas of Belfast or Londonderry, his big secondary intermediate school (equivalent to an English secondary modern) has for years conjured cream results which should shame many middle-class English grammar schools. Last year 60 per cent of his boys passed all their "O" levels. More than three-fifths of his older boys got their "A" levels. Nearly 70 per cent of school leavers entered further or higher education—mostly higher. On past form, he hopes many of these will get into the Civil Service.

On his desk, he displays a prospectus which shows that three recent old boys now dominate the student union administrative posts of a distinguished northern English university. Also on the desk is the report he sent the parents of one of his best current "A" level boys, whom he hopes will enter teaching training. "He applies himself extremely well to his studies and shows maturity in approach to his work. He has reacted well to school discipline and is willing to take positions of responsibility. He has been doing wonderful work in organising charity walks and contacts with schools of other religions."

But that was last term. This term, the head, who says "my only interest all my life has been in education" feels almost everything he so fiercely values is about to be undermined. The boy has entered a police detention centre, suspected although not charged—of being a Catholic gunman. For several weeks, pre-"A" level tests have been sent to him and other pupils in jail. "The army came for him at home at four in the morning," says the head.

About 100 of his examination pupils—nearly half the total—have been detained and interrogated, although most are now free. The head himself has given up going home for lunch. He waits in his study for "the lunchtime confrontation" when between 10 and 40 of his junior boys—up to 7 per cent of the total—are apt to stand about the streets ready to "hatter" (as the head puts it) on trouble with nearby Protestant schoolchildren or adults. "So far, all I need to do is to go out when trouble is brewing and say 'Come along, boys. What I am afraid of is that soon they will stop obeying me.'"

His copybook school, where the boys still obediently stand and chorus "Good morning" when a visitor enters or leaves a classroom, has become one of those where, as the Northern Ireland Ministry of Education inspectors find, "teachers are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a haven for their pupils."

The shadow is now extending into the head's private life. He speaks of reports "from so many sources that I can't ignore them" that IRA activists are interrogating his friends about one of the cruelest rumours that could circulate about a Catholic teacher in a politically tense area. The rumour is demonstrably untrue but the head can't get the message back down the grapevine.

He thinks the next stage may be a threat to his life. That was one reason why he spoke to me anxiously in his study during his lunchtime wait, on the day a boy from another school was shot in Londonderry.

"We serve an intensely working class area. Large numbers of our pupils are making terrible sacrifices to continue their education because they come from homes where the father is not working or is dead. They are very courteous boys. Really, their only hope is to get into higher education. This term, our



'The army is inclined to arrest and detain many of my 16 to 19-year-olds, just because they are Catholic pupils. They are detained for days on the insinuation that they are members of activist groups'

A Northern Ireland headmaster talks to John Ezard about the problems of running a school against a background of civil war

Children of the barricades



greatest problem has been connected with the army or the police. The army is inclined to arrest and detain many of my 16 to 19-year-olds just because they are Catholic pupils. I have no evidence that this is happening with Catholic grammar schools, just secondary schools.

"They are detained and arrested for quite a number of days on the insinuation that they are members of activist

groups. One boy was arrested at the weekend, detained for seven hours and arrested on condition he gave within a week the names of 30 people directly or indirectly involved in trouble. Otherwise he would be sent to Long Kesh. He doesn't know any names and doesn't know what to do. This is doing an enormous injury to a young man of 18.

"In the majority of these cases, I feel there is no justification for the

detention. The ill-treatment—I know it has been denied—is certainly taking place at the present time from what I have heard from pupils.

"I have only their word for their innocence, but when a pupil comes to confide in me, he treats me as a counsellor, an adviser, a father. I've had so many in the past few months who had endured physical and mental suffering that it has caused great suffering and pain in me personally. What surprises me is that they are enduring it and not taking action. My fear is that the accumulation will become enough to make them join an activist organisation."

"I would know if they were activists. Their schoolwork and homework—they do three to four hours a night—would deteriorate and I would soon be getting reports of absenteeism. This is not happening. But it is exactly what happens with perhaps 40 to 50 of my junior pupils who I know are guilty of bad behaviour like stone-throwing on their way home. I am afraid the state gives them advice but they don't take it. They are the ones the community tensions really affect. The staff is feeling an enormous strain at all times. We try to take a middle way and my advice to them is not to discuss with their pupils what has happened the previous night but to concentrate on exam work—to pile on the homework as much as humanly possible. So day in day we have pupils coming in from riot areas, anxious to discuss the crisis and yet the staff is avoiding the issue. Tension is piling up."

"For a long time, we never had discipline problems here. But about a year ago we had so many attacks on a school bus that I asked the army for help. The army's job was not to patrol the area but stones were coming from but to get on the bus and point guns at our pupils. Two Saracen tanks wait for them at the bus stop every morning. The tension has not yet reached the out-of-hand stage. But my fear is that, on top of community tensions, it could lead to a classic riot and the breakdown of junior classes."

"The symptoms I dread are first a lack of application to schoolwork, then outright disorder at school. I am sure Protestant schools are having no serious problems. All teachers are definitely on the side of the order but the army are not the people to deal with schoolchildren."

Questioning doesn't shake the head's confidence in the innocence of his senior boys. His criticisms cannot be investigated because he wants his school to remain unidentified. The value of recording them is that the Ministry of Education should be kept about his school and is setting up a working party to study such problems.

Ulster education statistics often look unhelpful for the future. For example, significant Protestant-Catholic integration is being attempted at only four of the province's 1,500 schools. But it is also fair to point out that the Ministry believes a maximum of only 30 of this total may have problems as acute as the secondary headmaster's.

In the rest, normality apparently is being preserved. Some four-year-olds at primary schools as far away as Portlough, 60 miles from Belfast, are spontaneously producing drawings of IRA funerals, legitimate and burnt-out cars. But, as primary head in one of Belfast's worst Protestant trouble areas said: "We just don't know whether we need to worry about these drawings."

The Education Ministry is equally uncertain. It remains true, however, that in a province as small and nervy as Ulster, good educational news makes not enough public impact—while one sound of alarm tends to be received as though it is a bell tolling for the whole system.

It is also arguable that any unrest which arises in Ulster will be Ulster's remarkable drive towards self-improvement by education—anything which breaks the meritocratic ladder—would deal the population its most serious blow so far.

**JACK
TREVOR
STORY**



The shorn lambs

THE LITTLE ones are back to school again. Dorothy came home crying the first day of term one of the children had hit her—and after all Dorothy's the teacher. She'd been hit at, blue and four-letter-worded all day, poor girl. Her first job after training college and she gets thrown into the deep end, trying to make herself heard to a hunch of East End school-leaving age group pupils.

"The girls look like tarts and nobody can read or write," she said.

Dorothy had planned to talk about artists' lives rather than their work and try to capture their interest with the dirty bits, then say: "But be also wrote this." She would have needed an amplified megaphone. "Shut your face, fatty," they told her; and: "Dorothy, dear, if you were drawing explicit holiday activities on the board, miming last night's adventures against the desks and using the new time-saving vocabulary for everything."

"Come damn the stall and I'll give you some apples, darling," said Paul, at the same time goosing her.

"Why didn't you report him?" I asked her.

"I don't know," Dorothy said, hopelessly. "He's so bloody dirty..."

This is what I call a natural order. No need to be depressed by the lowering of teaching standards, illiteracy, obscenity, vanishing cultural values, if you leave them to get on with it like a tank of tropical fish. Just chuck in a few anks' eggs, they'll sort it out themselves. For every school of piranhas there's a cruising shark.

We have several young teachers in the house at the moment and although they tend to come home shattered, they go out again in the morning like a team of commandos.

"Over the top!" Dorothy cries, her humour restored.

What comes out of it are the people who, in any great democracy, govern the country by majority rule; all they need learn is making an "X" on a voting slip or switching to the right channel so that the television companies know which programmes to repeat. If an educated minority is dubious about taking them into Europe it may just be the fear of losing all their Continental friends.

"I fought it was going to be all palm trees and a TV interviewer in Minorca, in a programme about the disappointments of package holidays."

I don't know which is the most terrifyingly indigenous, the aggressively loose and unmodulated, half-street sound epitomised in every other BBC radio play or the genteel provincial accent that Hylda Baker takes off so depressingly—both are filled with the hates and fears of the English class system. You'd think, since 10 years of compulsory schooling is wasted on people who don't want to learn, that basic education might more profitably consist of teaching children how to speak and sing and walk and generally use themselves. Instead, all this flaccid, meaningless brain-washing goes on, starting at the moment somebody leans over your cot and says:

"Say dada!"

Tonight, Dorothy came home badly shaken. One of the boys in her class had gone too far—he must have done something pretty awful for she wouldn't tell me what it was—and she had been forced to call for help. The carpentry master had come in and beaten the boy with a bit of two-by-two.

It was terrible. He got him in a corner. I couldn't look. "But he probably deserved it," I said. "That's

not the point," Dorothy said. "I should have been doing it."

The graduates of this ubiquitous university spill out into offices, factories, shops, garages, and give us a kind of atrocious services that get in "Which?" A friend of mine, Graham, who cleans street lamps for Camde Council tells me there are three men for every job in the works department—two to watch and one to thin, about doing it. The money's good as you don't need a specialist education. Boys coming up know this, so why no goose young school-teachers will you've got the rhanne—leave it to you're older and you can get into serious trouble.

Samuel Johnson, in his "Journey to the Western Isles," observes: "Such is the laxity of Highland conversation that the inquirer is kept in continuous suspense, and by a kind of intellectual retrogradation, knows less as he hears more."

I got the same feeling listening to a girl in an off-lirence listing the wine she had to offer—sweet, dry and mediocre.

"I keep it all down here to save hating to go up the steps and show it to me!" she explained.

Connoisseurs of savoury-modern education detect that the shop was in Welwyn Garden City where the word "hating" is part of a complicated patois; it is an omnibus of "having" and "to" but with another "to" added for luck.

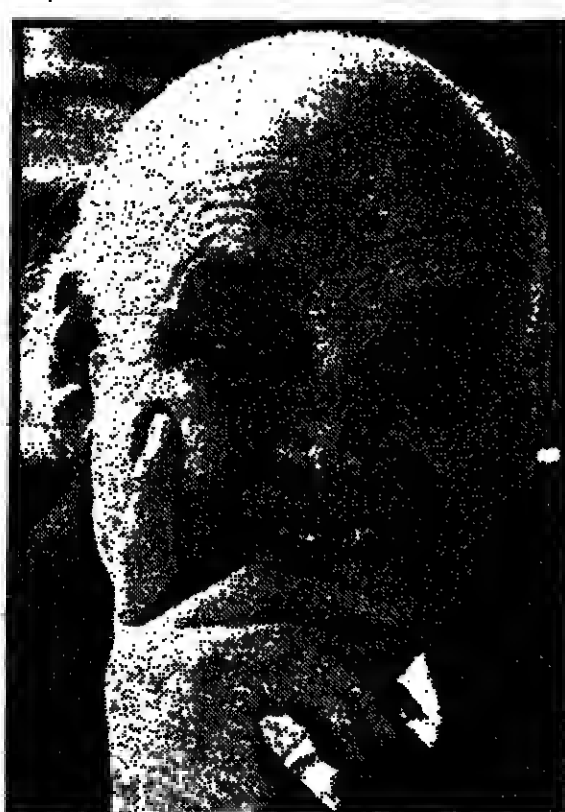
Many of the older residents have been moved and you'll find pictures of tractor factories where you'd expect to find Aunt Mildred. Their own rent is known as "Over the Main" and the original residential area bears a red uniformity of architecture which I can only describe as "Noddy." Here live the New Town Progressives or their descendants (Bernard Shaw used to come here to have his hair cut) separated from what they've done by the old LNER railway tracks.

"We have the only progressive educational system in the country," Miss Collins, the headmistress of the Junior School, once told me. "All play and no work—until they go to the higher school and are ready for it."

You can guess what went wrong with that. Every few months we parents went along and listened to the school playing "Silent Night" on their recorders (pipes). At that age, and even into their teens, Welwyn Garden City children were oddly similar in appearance, as if they'd all been brought up on Shredded Wheat, which is the major local industry. I tried to get Ronnie Kinnock to use them in his film "The Battle of Britain." He said: "Where are all the women got pregnant by some mysterious, galactic agency and produced identical babies."

Still five of my eight children went through this educational system and came out practically unscathed, the girls making good marriages, the boys entering a worthwhile profession, both of them in his studio the other day, cutting fish fingers in half and inserting pieces of real flaky fish ready for a real flaky fish finger advertising photograph.

"It saves hating to retouch the prints," he explained. This is Peter who, so professional he takes his glasses off to read, while the younger boy, Lee, has just sold his first book "A Terminus Place" to Michael Joseph: like me they got the education they needed, which was nothing, which was just a slight interference with the natural order. They will soon be earning about as much as the Prime Minister.



SIR ARTHUR Bryant, knight, Companion of Honour, Englishman, writer of heroic histories about years of peril, ages of elegance, turns of the tide, and triumphs in the West, possesses the greatest virtue an historian can have. He believes the past was real. He had the good luck to form this belief very early, when he was in his twenties. He was sorting through a roomful of seventeenth century papers that had been preserved in his first wife's family, and it came to him that there were real lives in those letters, lives that had once meant as much to their possessors as his in the Regency. He liked wandering into aseromms. He saw the sand from the sand-dishes of the first writers still glistening in the folds.

"Yes, yes, yes, yes," he says, "I can still see it falling out." And he quotes a line of William Barnes—"And all their hopes and all their fears, be bygone things of other years."

There are of course other qualities which an historian might wish to have and one of them is scepticism. I do not think Sir Arthur has much of this. It is not in his nature. But he does have that greatest virtue of all, without which an historian has nothing. That is why he is read and why some of his colleagues, better equipped with other virtues, are not.

Sir Arthur has just published a new book, a heroic biography of Wellington called "The Great Duke," so I went along to his London house to talk to him about that and about himself, and we started, as we were to continue, with a digression. He is a very pleasant man to digress with. We started by chatting about a portrait of Charles II over his desk. Now his first hook (which happened to sell 20,000 and therefore, irretrievably offended a good few other historians) was a life of Charles II, which was published in 1931. Shortly after that he wandered one lunchtime into a saleroom which was where Almsacks used to be in the Regency. He liked wandering into salerooms. The sale there was just ending, so he went to another saleroom off Pall Mall, where they usually sold pictures of Highland cattle drinking, which he didn't want. So he left, picking up as he went out what he thought was a catalogue of the next day's sale. But he had picked up the wrong catalogue and when he went back to change it they happened to be knocking down this portrait of Charles II. He bought it for 48s and took it home in a taxi. It has since been said to be a Hals, which Sir Arthur does not believe, and neither do I, but he says, Charles II was in the Netherlands at the time, very depressed, and Hals was there too, a broken-down drunk old man.

Well, back to Sir Arthur. He was

born at Sandringham, the son of a member of Edward VII's secretariat, and the day he was born his father put him down for the MCC. He was at school at Harrow, and wanted to be a soldier, but was unable to afford the British Army and therefore expected to enter the Indian. But then the war came, and he joined the Royal Flying Corps, flew bombers in France, crashed several, but was thrown clear each time.

He was at Oxford, and then became successively a schoolmaster, the principal of an art college, and a barrister. By then the roomful of manuscripts in his wife's family had given him a taste for history. He heard Long-

and often praised their conduct in the field, but he had also called them the scum of the earth, and many were jailbirds.

Did I know that when the British army entered France in 1914 it had been obliged to mint its own money, and that officers were told to search for a few men who might be able to do this and who happened to be French, being difficult to find much men in every unit there turned out to be 30 or 40 professional forgers.

I wondered if Wellington's great early successes in India, and indeed his whole military career, were not an excellent argument for an aristocracy. He was, after all, the son of an Earl,



The Terry Coleman interview with Sir Arthur Bryant (left)

Protestant islander

man's were thinking of a new history of Charles II, submitted a specimen chapter describing the flight from Worcester, and was commissioned to write the book. In the completed manuscript the specimen chapter became Chapter 9, but an American friend, an historian, having read the MSS, advised him to throw away the first eight. He took this advice, cut 30,000 words, and began with the flight from Worcester.

With Wellington in mind, I asked Sir Arthur how far one could possibly understand the mind of a man who lived many years ago. He replied that the basic facts of human nature remained the same. But he also believed that if history taught us any one thing it was this, that what was in fashion now would not be in fashion in 50 years' time, and this was true of ideas and of all ways of looking at things.

Yes, but Wellington had been a humane man?—Yes.

Then how was it he banged and fogged quite so many of his men? In the last war, an American general had slapped a soldier's face, and it had been a scandal; and one American deserter had been shot, and that had been a scandal too, wasn't it? What accounted for this great difference?

Sir Arthur, as I understood him, replied that America had become softer, and sheltered by wealth from the harshness of life, and that thousands of American soldiers might have been saved if their discipline had been as strict as that of the Light Division in the peninsular war. Wellington had loved his men,

though an Irish one, and was lieutenant-colonel by purchase at the age of 24. Sir Arthur thought there was something in this. Later on, by the time he was a general, it had not helped Wellington that he was what the War Office regarded as a sprig of the nobility. But in the beginning, if he had been a poor man, he could never have had such opportunities as he did have, so young. Now Napoleon was a poor man and the penance-time French army could never have risen higher than captain.

Sir Arthur considers Wellington to have been Napoleon's superior as a general, and likes to try and convince you that he was better at most things. Had I heard the story of Mlle. Georges of the Comedie Francaise? Well, she had slept with Napoleon, and liked to say she had also slept with Wellington.

When she was an old woman, in the time of Louis Philippe, she was invited to give a comparative opinion. "Ah," she said, "durant avec le vainqueur du monde, mais monsieur le duc était de beaucoup le plus fort."

Sir Arthur's admiration for Wellington's capacities seems at times to be very like that of Churchill's for an unfortunate and rather elderly English courier who disgraced himself in a most distinguished way; and he tells you the story of that too. The poor courier had been discovered with a girl in the park, and Churchill was told about it in the smoking room of the House of Commons.

"What did you say?" says Sir Arthur, in a pretty creditable imitation of the Churchillian voice. "Let me get this clear. Half-past eleven on a

December night? Five degrees of frost? Seventy-six years of age? It makes me proud to be an Englishman."

There were two points in Sir Arthur's book with which I was unhappy. First he mentions that British soldiers could take three or four hundred lashes without a groan. I do not believe it. Secondly he says that at Waterloo few of the British wounded cried out in their pain, that those few were immediately quieted by their officers, and that it was a point of pride with Englishmen of all classes to suffer without murmuring. I find this difficult to take. Badly wounded men are beyond pride.

Sir Arthur replied that there was no fact stated in the book which was not

read men's naturally selfish interests and bind them together in love and loyalty. His experience of Germany was almost entirely limited to one or two holidays at Christmas in the 1920s. He felt that decent Germans loved their country and were having a rotten time, and his sympathies went out to them.

Now he thinks he was wrong. Appenaissance was wrong, because it is impossible to prevent anyone from being a patriot. And he did not know what was happening in Germany. For one thing, he says, he never went to the cinema, and never saw any news films.

Sir Arthur has been and still is a strong opponent of British entry into the Common Market. He considers the principle of the supremacy of Parliament an important one. Parliament can do anything, except bind its successors. Mr Heath and his colleagues could not change the unwritten Constitution of the country. They could say they had, and sign the Treaty of Rome saying they had, but the next Parliament could change it back.

He went back to what he had said before, that if history taught anything it was that what is now in fashion would not be in fashion in 50 years. So, in the past, when change had become necessary, Britain had been able to change without revolution. It was no accident that all the great Powers of the Common Market had had at least one revolution, and sometimes two or three, in the past 150 years, while we had had none.

But apart from that, would he agree that the objections to entering Europe were rather more emotional than rational? Of course, he said, there was emotion, but as for himself, he felt that he was rational about emotional objections. He kept returning to ask himself what was a nation. It was something like a religion. It could change its usual virtue and loyalty. It was not something that could be altogether explained in terms of reason. If the Common Market was merely a trading agreement, or an organisation for fiscal convenience, he would be all in favour, but it was much more than that.

"You see," he said, "I think of the many humble people who do feel very strongly about this. Their objection to the Common Market is certainly emotional. They couldn't put it into words; they couldn't explain why they feel that the top people are selling them down the river."

But, said, it was true that most European countries were now better off than England. England wasn't. They were richer, he said; but that was not all. Many people who were anxious to enter the Common Market saw it as a means of what they called growth, but that struck him as an awfully tricky foundation for a nation.

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ALLISON & BUSBY

New York closer by £30

It is pleasant to know that the airlines do not now think they will be ruined if they cut their transatlantic fares by quite large amounts. It would have been pleasant to have known it sooner. But the internal politics of an international price ring is a wonderfully complicated thing. Yesterday a good news from Honolulu seems to have come about mainly because Lufthansa threatened to go it alone and to dare the International Air Transport Authority to do its worst. In practice transatlantic fares have now come down by agreement by almost as much as Lufthansa was proposing at the beginning. The agreed reductions are large. The transatlantic excursion return fare in the winter will come down from £113 to £83 and the peak season return fare from £138 to £121. It is interesting to see how much the airline can do for us if they try.

At their other conferences, which deal with other routes, the members of IATA could surely now encourage each other to do the same again. BOAC already operates an attractive and sensible scheme whereby people who book in advance can pay less. This is already helping BOAC to fill its aircraft and make them pay but only on

the routes where BOAC is not in international competition and can therefore thumb its nose at IATA. BEA has a similar scheme for halving fares in Europe for people who book ahead. Any scheme which allows people to move about more cheaply is worth looking at, especially if it also keeps the airline solvent.

There probably never was much danger that the scheduled airlines would start to cut each other's throats in ways which made flying dangerous. They are not really free to compete in this way because if IATA fails to stop them their Governments step in. Every country has its Department of Trade and Industry which needs to stay friends with every other country's D.T.I. The truth is that the public needs the scheduled airlines as well as the unscheduled ones. But while IATA remained locked in indecision the charter firms were acquiring more and more business. As long as the scheduled fares were ridiculously out of step with the unscheduled ones the IATA members were pricing themselves out of a part of the market, a part that they will always badly need. What they must have to make their new aircraft pay are not the travellers who were flying anyway but the ones who will now be able to afford it. The customers can read. With £30 off there will be more of them.

Three hot little islands

A dispute about the sovereignty of three very small islands is standing in the way of a trouble-free British withdrawal from the Persian Gulf. They lie in the entrance to the Persian Gulf and Iran (which is Persia) wants them. Iran's reasons are strategic. When British forces leave—as they soon will—Iran takes over as the dominating power. As such Iran wants to take control of the dominating islands—Greater Tums, Lesser Tums, and Abu Masa. They lie close to the narrow entrance to the Gulf through which the tankers pass on their way to and from the oil fields. At present they belong to two of the Trucial States—Ahu Masa to Sharjah and both the Tums to Ras al-Khaimah. The difficulty is that Sharjah and, hopefully, Ras al-Khaimah as well will be members of the UAE, the Union of Arab Emirates, the loose confederation which—Britain hopes—will impart stability to the south shore of the Gulf. The Emirates contest the Iranian claim to the islands (which has some historic as well as strategic merit). The Iranians are yielding nothing and uttering threats.

Sovereignty involves face, and the Gulf sheikhs, as well as Iran, cannot afford to be seen to be losing either. The accusation that they would be prepared to give up Arab soil to Iran would undermine their authority within their own sheikhdoms. It would provide fuel for criticism by Iraq—propounding Ba'athist tenets of socialism, and almost always close to blows with Iran—and also by Aden which gives backing to a regional liberation front. Both sheikhdoms also hope for an oil find to lessen their economic dependence on the rich men of the UAE, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. But the most serious threat is Iran's stated intention not to recognise or support the UAE unless it gets sovereignty over the three islands.

A Broad Front for Uruguay

With the safe release of the British Ambassador, Sir Geoffrey Jackson, Uruguay has lost its temporary notoriety in the British consciousness, and is once again an under-reported Latin American country. But it is on the verge of an election a week tomorrow which could be as important to the continent as a whole as President Allende's victory in Chile a year ago. In three or so years Uruguay has deteriorated from being a stable and democratic society to one riven by violence of the Right and Left. Plunged into an economic crisis by the declining world market for wool the hard-line Government of the present President Pacheco launched an austerity programme which hit hardest on the poor and created mass unemployment. Tensions mounted. Many middle-class people became restless at the rate of inflation which continued to mount in spite of the President's measures, but he only added political repression to economic austerity.

It was in this situation that many of the more alienated sons and daughters of the middle class set up the Tupamaros and launched an urban guerrilla campaign. With violence escalating on both sides the country reached a position this summer when the Tupamaros seemed to be operating almost as a shadow Government.

But with an election due this autumn the most hopeful development in Uruguayan politics for many years occurred, almost in desperation. A democratic socialist coalition the Frente Amplio (the Broad Front) has been formed which in barely a year has won enough support to look

like a possible victor on Sunday week. Superficially similar to President Allende's coalition, it includes the Christian Democrats as well as the Socialists and Communists, a result which has always eluded a similar balance of forces in, for example, France, Italy, or even Chile (where only a handful of Christian Democrats joined Allende). Its candidate is a respected former General, Lihor Seregni, who resigned in protest at Pacheco's growing repression.

For decades constitutional Uruguayan politics have been dominated by two roughly alternating parties, the Blancos and Colorados which represent mainly the land-owning oligarchy of some 600 families who own half the country's land. Now for the first time a democratic coalition has emerged with an alternative ideology, a national perspective, and a chance of success. Conscious of that the Tupamaros have gone quiet and the coalition may pick up many votes on the plausible grounds that a victory for it will keep things that way. To allow himself to stand again President Pacheco is trying to amend the constitution by a referendum conducted at the same time as the election. His agriculture minister, Señor Bordaberry, is standing as the main alternative Colorado. There are three other Colorados and a powerful Blanco, Señor Wilson Ferrer. While the Broad Front is hoping for a divided opposition, the President is taking few chances now and has closed one of its main newspapers. It will be to the Front's credit and in Uruguay's best interests if in spite of harassment it manages to pull off a victory.

A COUNTRY DIARY

LINCOLNSHIRE: Perhaps because the musty smell of old prayerbooks and medieval stone is most powerfully nostalgic of boyhood and the sonorous rhymes of Crammerian prose still echo in the recesses of the mind I find it hard to pass a country parish church without a fleeting visit. Connoisseurs may dispute whether it is this county or Norfolk to the south which has the greatest richness of ecclesiastical architecture. I lack the comparative knowledge of a sound judgment but can confirm the surplus of churches in country areas which is an increasing embarrassment to the diocesan authorities. Few are yet abandoned for parishes can be linked and served by a team ministry and the occasional service keeps a building in good heart. But I came recently across the derelict church in woodland at Kingerby. The churchyard of formerly consecrated ground is submerged in the shadow of huge yew trees grown out of proportion through neglect in the rich soil of a burial ground. Because the local landowning family were Catholic the medieval building of the church escaped the fate of despoliation at the hands of the Victorian restorers that proved to be too often the fate of fine churches in this county. It is the decay of disuse and the encroachment of the countryside that now attacks the fabric. Bats hang silently in the gloom of the tower and birds sit through broken glass to circle over the nave. Plaques on the ancient walls appeal for the prayers of an absent congregation long since dispersed. All is damp and still and a cold silence is disturbed only by the draught that flutters the pages of an abandoned prayer book on the soiled stone floor.

COLIN LUCKHURST.

"Christianity is multi-racial and multi-national in its very essence. It does not believe in natural selection by brute force. If its unifying beliefs are removed, then a new tribalism is not too far away."—SIR FREDERICK CATHERWOOD, former Director-General of NEDC, replies to Ray Billington's article "Living without an overlord," published on Wednesday. Here too are readers' letters on the subject.

Standing up for faith



Sir Frederick Catherwood

THE AVERAGE Christian may be permitted a small groan when yet another cleric announces in a blaze of publicity that he no longer believes in God and he may perhaps be permitted another when there is a public row over his right to proclaim his disbelief from a Christian pulpit. It is a bit like Ted Heath claiming equal rights at the Labour Party Conference. It's a splendid point of argument but a bit silly in practice. However, Ray Billington makes his case very well and he deserves some dialogue with an orthodox Christian even if he cannot get it in Wesley's chapel. The first of his arguments seems to be that God is an invention set up by society to preserve order and the second that man is now sufficiently mature to dispense with the invention.

The trouble with most of today's clergy is that they allow themselves to be driven back from the first argument to the second and end up either with the law and order brigade or, in a small minority of cases, with revolution. Faced with a public argument about God, too many religious officials melt away like summer snow. They explain apologetically that if they talk about God, no one will listen, so they try to get on the wavelengh of a modern man and are completely outdistanced by the professional communicators who have spent millions of pounds in researching that wavelengh and in remaining very finely tuned to all its moods.

The Christian church has no business to alter its message according to the mood of society. Its job is to stand for what it believes to be right and true and against what it believes to be wrong and untrue. It is the job of the Christians in South Africa, in Northern Ireland and as it was in Nazi Germany

to stand out against the mood of racialism, not to adapt to it. The Christian faith stands over against the spirit of the age as an objective yardstick. But it cannot do this unless it believes that its yardstick is true.

The Church in Nazi Germany had thrown away its yardstick and when the crisis came it was too late to fetch it back.

Of course, the non-Christian can argue as Pilate did, "What is truth?" No Christian can prove that his faith is true, that the Christian God is not man's invention, but actually exists. But it is the job of the Christian church to demonstrate so far as they can that contrary to Ray Billington there is evidence for God other than that which is self-induced or instilled by others. The best way the Christian knows of demonstrating this is by living up to his profession and when we cannot do this we don't make much of it. But we are also meant to give a reason for our faith. We find a good deal more credible to believe that the human eye was designed by a creator than to believe that it just happened by chance. We find that the Christian moral law corresponds more closely than other moralities to the conscience of mankind, that the Christian picture of the good and evil in human nature is more realistic and more credible than those which deny the existence of evil altogether.

But, above all, the Christian finds a third dimension to body and soul, a spiritual life which he did not experience before he was a Christian but is as much a reality as any of the other senses. The witness of millions of Christians of all races, ages, classes and psychological types through twenty centuries is as much evidence as any laboratory experiment and really cannot be laughed off or explained away. And though there are, of course, spurious psychological conver-

sions, no one who has witnessed the autonomous power of Christian conversions to change men's nature can doubt that this power is external and is directly related to Christian faith.

But the Christian's belief that the Christian moral law is right does not relieve him of the obligation to spell out its logic. Christians believe that acceptance by society of an external

Christianity believes that acceptance by society of an external moral code is the only method of preserving freedom and that the rejection of an external code is the high road to tyranny. We are interdependent all right, but who is to be dependent on whom? If there is to be no external code to which even rulers are subject, then what is to keep the rulers in check? Do democratically elected majorities, like the Stormont government, have the revelation to divine right? Does it go to those like the South African government who believe in racial superiority or to those like the Maoists and Communists who believe that their system is not only true but may be imposed by force on unbelievers? Should the Anglicans in South Africa shut up? Should those of us who try to preach Christian tolerance in Belfast stay safely at home? Those who have been reborn to the gospels according to Darwin, Marx, Freud and Russell are strong enough yet to take over this task.

No Christian can be entirely surprised that the decline of Christendom coincides with the rise of nationalism and racialism. Christianity is multi-racial and multi-national in its very essence. It does not believe that man is an animal hunting in herds. It does not believe in natural selection by brute force. If its unifying beliefs are removed, then a new tribalism is not too far away.

Christianity as a tool

TO THE EDITOR

Sir—May I congratulate Ray Billington ("Living without an overlord," November 17) on his perception of the ghostlike nature of the God-myth perpetuated in our institutional life. Set against the seeming dignity and commonsense of the humanist creed, this so-called Christianity appears as no more than a tool of social and political repression. However he has omitted to deal with the orthodox Christian view of man.

To say that the shortcomings of man required the provision of an overlord to keep him on the straight and narrow is to use Christianity as a political tool. Undoubtedly this is often done, but it is none the less a gross case of putting the cart before the horse. The Bible teaches that the ills catalogued by Mr Billington are a result of man's refusal to concede with God's plan for the glorification of each individual to the status of sons of the living God.

I agree that the basic issue

Discussion

Sir—As Methodist ministers we write to express our sense of deep disturbance over the fact (reported in the Guardian Nov. 17) that the president of the Methodist Conference has persuaded the Trustees of Wesley's Chapel to postpone the discussion group in which Ray Billington was to have taken part. Since the meeting is now to be held on secular premises, the postponement is a political move. It is our conviction that openness to the views of others, and willingness to meet people of all shades of opinion is an essential element in being a Christian today. It is particularly important that Christians learn how to listen to others, since we are usually cast in the role of proclaimers. Without that prior listening there is little hope of the Christian faith ever making contact with our contemporaries. The attitude of the president

is of man's ability to manage his affairs without God; and the existence of God is a crucial question. The notion that there is no evidence for this, other than that which is self-induced is not supported by common experience or history. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have invariably satisfied the unprejudiced inquirer.

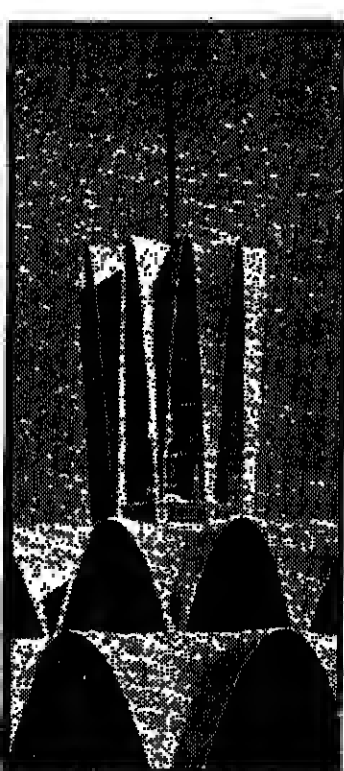
That man demonstrates his potential to stand on his own feet is contradicted several times in the same article.

Passing the social buck was not a characteristic of Jesus, and it is not of his dedicated followers. If Mr Billington's aim is to provide the philosophical foundation for a drive to alleviate the ills of society, we do not waste time in Quixotic windmills. I suspect that when it comes to identifying the real ills of mankind we will again disagree. Let us at least discuss real issues.—Yours sincerely, (Dr) Stephen W. France, Department of Biological Sciences, The University, Lancaster.

and that of the trustees reveals yet again the fear, anxiety, and the serious loss of nerve present in the Christian Church today. I trust the body, with the helpwater and for so construed as support for the views of Ray Billington, though the neurotic reaction of the Methodist establishment provides evidence for the argument of his article. Our answer is for the principle of freedom of expression within the Church. Yours faithfully,

(The Revs.): Brian Jenner, Ronald Marshall, Charles New, Leslie Pownall, Anthony Wessan, The Methodist Church, Lay Training NW Region, Elm Park Way, Rochdale.

Sir—All Ray Billington is really saying in "Living without an Overlord" is that the Gospel as a Methodist



Minister of religion. I now preach an entirely different creed which is called agnosticism. I throw the baby out with the bathwater and for so doing the Methodist Church threw me out of its Ministry.—Yours faithfully, Fred Saxton, St Albans, Herts.

Sir—What a gloomy picture of Christianity Ray Billington presented in his article "Living without an overlord" (November 17). It is a picture of a man who is quickly disposed of as a despairing, fatalistically submissive philosophy. But the article cannot pass without asserting that for many of us, of all ages and in all social conditions, faith in the living God, historically revealed in Jesus Christ, has given us the joy, peace and abundance of life which he promised. Furthermore, having said this, it would be criminal of us not to advocate faith in the risen

Christ, who sets men free and does not "imprison men perpetually in the nursery."—Yours faithfully, Nicholas Mercer, Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Sir—I do not wish to quarrel with Mr Ray Billington's belief in the non-existence of God, though the evidence for this doesn't seem to me to be particularly strong. What I do find very hard to take is an essentially Victorian optimism about the human condition brought up-to-date with a few rather perfunctory references to drugs and violence.

"These things shall be! lofter race/Than e're the world hath known shall rise/With flame of freedom in their souls..." etc. It really beats me how humanists like Mr Billington are still able to believe this. After Passchendaele and the Somme; after Hitler and Stalin; after Auschwitz and Hiroshima; after Algeria and Vietnam...—Yours truly, Keith Mitchell, 2 Chippens Bank Cottages, Hever, Kent.

Sir—Ray Billington will find many supporters of the ideas expressed in his article "Living without an overlord." All the established churches are more concerned with their continuation as class-structured institutions than encouraging people to think for themselves whether they find a god, in any form, believable.

I believe in a God who has given us all minds to exercise and who wants any belief to be between He and I direct. I do not accept that He could possibly want a middle-man in the shape of His son, ministers of churches, or of any other sort. He is either interested in us individually or not at all. This places the responsibility for belief or non-belief on one person only, oneself, where it belongs.—Yours sincerely, Joan Brown, Lynch Gate House, Elmton Road, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.

Sir—The article raised many interesting and vital issues, but in so half-baked a manner that the cause of rational debate cannot have been advanced. Far be it from me to contribute to the public mind a confusion and/or canonisation of the writer. That is not the point. What is the point is the truth of man's situation, and whether or not it is correct to say that it is to be described in terms of some kind of relation to God. Whichever side a man comes down on, his decision is not to be helped by articles like this.—Yours faithfully, Colin Ganton, Lecturer in the Philosophy of Religion, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Religion, University of London, Kings College.

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Nov 20 1971

WILLIAM DAVIS
in Chicago

The last laugh?

"HAVE we lost our national sense of humour?" a professor of English at Chicago University asked this week, and supplied his own answer: "No. Joke books, and still selling remarkably well. Huge television audiences were being endlessly pilled with jokes. And there was plenty of good comic fiction."

The professor might have added films like "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice" or "M*A*S*H". But I think he misses the point. An appreciation of Bennett Cerf's joke books, and of TV comedy, is not evidence of a well-developed sense of humour.

Laughing at others is too easy. The real definition of a sense of humour surely is the ability to laugh at yourself. And this is a personal thing. Humour cannot be put into neat, national compartments.

Nations are not entitled to think of themselves as exceptionally well up in the humour stakes just because they have produced some funny writers. Britain, for example, has no more right to talk glibly about the great English sense of humour because we've had writers like Wilde and Swift than Germany has to call itself a great musical nation just because Beethoven, Bach, and Wagner happened to have been born there.

In short, there's no such thing as a "national sense of humour." If one must generalise, it's better to talk of a general mood. (And even that tends to vary from region to region.)

Satire means essentially the belief that nothing is sacred. It is a view which most Americans find hard to accept. They don't want to laugh at themselves—their follies, traditions, institutions, and currently fashionable beliefs.

I have, for example, been repeatedly warned not to make jokes about Vietnam, racial prejudice, and women's lib. "These things," I have been solemnly assured, "are too serious for laughter."

I have countered that humour, at its best, makes people aware of pretentiousness, pomposity, absurdity. All three were present in generous measure. Used properly, humour was a more effective weapon against, say, racial prejudice than anger. And it did not necessarily have to be funny: some of the best satire made people think rather than laugh.

P. G. Wodehouse believes the reaction against humour has come about because people are too "upright," too tense. "Wherever you look," he says, "on every shoulder there is a chip, in every eye a cold glitter warning the humorist not to start anything, if he knows what's good for him."

The good professor concedes there is some truth in this. "Practically everybody these days," he says, "has a hang-up and many have regiments of bang-ups. So when satirists attack persons or attitudes, critics are sure to gripe because they are sniping at the wrong ones."

In part, of course, the "cold glitter" reflects a feeling of insecurity. Older people, in particular, feel that their values and beliefs are much eroded much too rapidly. They don't want to be reassured. They don't want humorists to join students, blacks, and others in the business of weakening, or even tearing down, their carefully erected structures.

But the young get just as angry if you attack one of their sacred cows. Al Capp, for example, lost many old friends and one-time admirers when he started to make fun of the Youth Cult and the TV men who made it popular.

The latest group to hit back are the Poles. They are fed up with the Polish jokes which have been such a popular feature of the New York scene in recent years. (Sample: "Why does it take five Polish workers to change a light bulb? One to hold the bulb, and four to turn the ladder.")

A prominent Polish businessman is financing a counter-offensive designed to prove that Poles are not such hopeless fellows after all. "Chopin," says one of the ads proudly, "was a Pole."

The organisers claim that they are "doing this for all America." A happy person, they say, is a productive person. If you make fun of him, he can't be happy.

Another area where, it seems, humour is unwanted is politics. Theodore Sorensen was complaining about this the other day. Most humorists, he said, shied away from "truly pointed thrusts that enable Americans to laugh at their worst problems and their best politicians. What is worse, the politicians themselves have forgotten how to laugh at each other."

Sorensen thinks this is "a danger signal for us all." I couldn't agree more. But ask yourself, honestly, are we in Britain any better?

YOUR friendly neighbourhood fireman is nothing of the sort: he is increasingly your general-emergency-cum-rescue man, and in spite of the hefty increases in pay recommended on Thursday by the Cunningham report, he may be — friendly or not — but disgruntled to boot. He works 56 hours a week, between 8 and 12 of them compulsory overtime. On average he spends 9 per cent of his time on drill, 25 per cent on clearing up maintenance, and 57 per cent on standby, including his meal-times. If you discount the period he spends cleaning up and maintaining his equipment after a call, he is on active service for about 3 per cent of his total duty hours, which is a short spell in which to be a hero.

When he actually leaps on his machine, the chances of coming to grips with fire itself are reduced by the one in five calls that are false alarms (half of them well-intentioned, half malicious) and the one in seven that may be for anything from sorting out a motorway pile-up to disentangling a cat from a tree, or pumping out Mr. Blogger's hot and cold running cellar. And in fact these non-fire-fighting activities have been causing some concern. The Cunningham report comments that this growing role has been an even wider national importance by the dishandment of the civil defence service.

The Holroyd report on the organisation of the fire service, published last year, reckoned that the demand for these so-called "special services" could double over the next decade. Last year, calls for special services totalled 54,000—which may not look overburdening alongside the



HUGH HEBERT on the Cunningham Report

The fire next time

245,000 fires the services attended. But in a situation where most services are under strength, and everyone agrees that more effort should be spent on fire prevention, it is a factor that needs watching, and Cunningham has in fact recommended that the whole work of the service should be re-evaluated within two years.

There is no statutory obligation on the fire service to respond to calls for emergency that does not involve fire or the risk of fire — it is a discretionary matter, and Holroyd recommended that it stay that way. Mainly because, if the service officially became a general emergency corps, the non-fire-fighting calls might grow to the point where they endangered the ability to get to grips with a real blaze. In

some Swiss and German cities, where the firefighters have general emergency duties, these have far outstripped the fire calls.

In this country, there is no national breakdown of the figures for special services. But in London in 1970, the brigade dealt with 690 cases of flooding and burst mains, 700 leaks of petrol, paraffin and other inflammable liquids, rescued 163 stranded animals, released 24 people trapped in lifts, 661 who were locked in, and 729 who were locked out. And 5,000 other assorted unholy incidents. That is quite apart from help with road accidents, which is one of the most important sources of the growing special service work.

There is, in fact, some divergence of view about this

growth. In London, it seems to be going up at about 10 per cent a year—roughly in line with the fire calls. The national figure seems to be growing less. And no one is saying that the fireman has no role to perform here—this is the service to which many people turn, directly or through the police, in time of emergency. But the Holroyd report—and some people in the service itself—expressed concern that the fringe activities should be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances: and charged for.

All of which has to be seen in the light of the call that there should be more fire prevention work. Successful acts of Parliament have loaded the brigades with checking on the safety of buildings. A new one, the Fire Precautions Act which

sprang from a series of hotel fires, will bring another 400,000 odd buildings into the net.

So brigades are faced with the need to be prevention experts, which involves too an element of gentle public education, moppers up after the motorway madmen, letters-in of the locked out, heroic firefighters, and general chore men sweeping out the station. And the last still rankles. Holroyd recommended that more civilian cleaners should be used, but so far only a few local authorities have brought them in. All of that seems to mean a 56-hour week, on the present strength of the brigades, even if a sizeable chunk of it is spent boringly on call. So do not abuse a fireman's friendliness with a jape false alarm. And don't forget your key.

NASEEM KHAN

reports

Manor mix



TIMES have changed at Beaulieu. Times were when the dining hall was packed regularly with the cream of the gentry and leaders of society. But now, we asked Lord Montagu in awe, did he and his wife really sit at opposite ends of the long dining table? No, he said, he had his private quarters upstairs. The Palace Hall (13th-century banqueting hall) is only used for special occasions.

Whether yesterday's occasion was on a par with the old days, is a moot point. On Monday Lady Montagu's book "The Manor Born" will be published (and by the way, Century Books). It's a selection of recipes and nostrums from the old household records of her own family, the Drummonds of Fawley, and from the Montagus. To mark the event a rather motley crowd of journalists and chelmen were packed into a charabanc and taken down to Beaulieu where Lady Montagu had, or so the story went, cooked a meal from her book.

Well no, not exactly with her own hands, said Lord Montagu. In fact the first course was prepared by their own cook and the main course by their hotel. Of course the eels were from their own river—the rights to both the river and river-bed have been secure since 1204.

It was a theatrical occasion. About 25 mediemen stretched far out into the distance around the refectory table, under the arc lights of Southern Television. Lord Montagu tactfully helped us on. "This is the eel. You take the meat off like this," he made a delicate incision. "And this, just here, is the bone." He tapped it. "Of course, it doesn't matter if you eat the small bones. They're like kippers, you know." Lord Montagu had, to be fair, a special interest in our getting the eel right. He had in fact devised it himself, based on one of the household books. In addition to seasoning the eels in claret, he had prescribed laying them on top of his spinach.

"Eels de Beaulieu" comes from the final section of "The Manor Born," which is devoted to recipes that the Montagus eat and love today. The previous sections are, obviously, more for their curiosity value. For presumably the demand (or supply) for Viper Soup is limited, or the need for a cure for the King's Evil. However, should any readers suffer from this, they'd be better served — according to the Montagu annals — by a draught of Aniseed, Archangel, white deadnettle, liquorice and honey of roses.

They are delightful recipes, vividly illustrating, but impractical. Why did Lady Montagu, a nice honest-to-goodness first place? Well, she said, rather diffidently, so many people had said what fun the old recipes were. There was so much material in the two houses—four whole books—which contained such an endless variety of material that she wanted to see preserved. And she had become

fascinated, through doing the book, by the social circles that she had been able to reconstruct—who had dined with whom and so on. "But heaven knows who's going to buy it," she said with worried honesty. "It is very expensive. Of course books in general are very expensive now."

Many of the social circles, Lady Montagu discovered, have died since the recipe days (the earliest dated is 1720). And many of the functions of the manor have gone with them. Who now would need "An Excellent Soup for Poor People" which makes 60 pints for 3/6, and which provides "a working man with a good, pleasant heart-meal"? Not the journalists, to general relief. They merited the fat of Beaulieu land-drenched Saddle of Lamb, Baked Pears Lady Anne Harvey and Princess Amelia's Cream Cheese. "Surfeit Water" wasn't served at the end of the meal, though it could well have been.

MISCELLANY

Ring around the clock

WHO SAID HM ingenious Post Office had made it impossible for British phone freaks to dial the world at public expense? The Post Office did, for one. And Miscellaneous, with a saving dash of scepticism, for another. They, and we, should have known better.

Miscellaneous's battery of telephones was hardly silent all afternoon yesterday. Calls from London; calls from New York from men who had had their calls from London; calls finally from London via New York. All with the same message: "The British system is much more susceptible to freaking than the American."

Freacking is a wheeze by which clever amateurs can imitate the control tones, used by the telephone companies, to open up the international network. In America it is reputed to be costing the companies \$50 millions a year.

OUR MAN bouncing back from New York says the point about the British system is that it is one of the oldest in the world. Instead of replacing the ancient equipment, the Post Office has simply built on it. "It is a massive cobweb of connections, big and small, and it's been there ever since. Every year it becomes more susceptible."

Freaks (they like to be called "phreaks," really) are rapidly becoming an international freemasonry. There are nightly conferences, linking London, New York, and Sydney—passing on such handy tips as that you can dial Kuwait. Only connections made by radio are off limits. But the Post Office, we are assured, need not be too alarmed. Our man says there are only 15-20 "hard-core freaks" operating in Britain. They do it for academic interest, not to add to Bill Rylands's burden. What was that about scepticism?

Newer still

STAGGERING into the eighties, Lord Campbell has been a consultant to prowl around Great Turnstile for the next six months, prying into "all aspects of the 'New Statesman' and the company's operation." The man for the job is Hugh de Cueterville, who once did something similar for Colmao Prentis and Varley, the Tories' old advertising agents.

The Statesman board says it wants to plan the paper's development "in the years ahead and beyond" in the light of changes in society and technical advances. One of the things de Cueterville is whispered to have achieved on a previous commission was to ease out everyone over about 50.

AN "over-riding circumstance" prevented the European Communities' outgoing spokesman, Eino Oivi, from giving a press conference. Briefing in London yesterday. Was he, Miscellaneous asked, on strike with the rest of the Brussels officials? No, said the EEC, the strike ended on Wednesday. What was so over-riding then? Well, said the EEC, he was expecting to be asked a lot of questions about insuring fishing to which there are no answers. Not yet anyway.

Escape clause

THE DUNGANNON "Observer" (largest circulation of any newspaper published in County Tyrone) had the world's press well and truly scooped yesterday morning with its account of the discovery of the two escapees disguised as clerics.

Its historically-minded chief reporter managed to recall a precedent. "News of the recapture of the two men," he wrote, "came in conditions reminiscent of those in which the youthful Hugh O'Neill and his compatriot Hugh O'Donnell had their dramatic escape from Dublin three centuries ago."

Then, as now, presumably, "the recapture of the escapees and the snow were the main talking points around practically every breakfast table in the county."

And then as now, perhaps, several rumours were checked out by the "Observer" proved unfounded.

the company's chairman. They ask numerous technical and accounting questions, none of which give us any indication of what their decision might be."

Can the civil servants (not to mention the miners) hold out till the politicians have another look? Argentina is trying to raise the South-west African issue in the Security Council. Another nine months, perhaps.

Good and true

LABOUR is girding for whatever piece of paper Sir Alec brings back from his Rhodesian safari. A lesser (again) has put in an emergency motion for next Wednesday's meeting of the national executive, proposing that the party should send a special envoy of its own to Salisbury.

The signs are that she is pushing against an open door. The feeling in Transport House is that Labour should make its own assessment of whether any settlement reached with Smith is acceptable to the majority of the Rhodesian people.

But who would Labour send? Well, there is a certain Labour peer, well-known for discretion and judgment, trusted and loved by Harold Wilson, not unfamiliar with the Rhodesian scene. . . .

Impending

WARNED is armed. The executive of Lincoln Labour party meets next Wednesday to decide whether to drop Dick Taverne as its parliamentary candidate at the next general election.

The general management committee of his local party has already carried a "No confidence" motion by 54 votes to 50. Next Tuesday night, Dick Taverne is moving the adjournment of the Commons on the motion: "The future of employment in Lincoln."

THE correspondence column of the "Times" carried a letter on Thursday from one George Malcolm Thomson, of Hampstead, reminding the "Post Office that in May 1572, Francis Drake sailed out of Plymouth to circumnavigate the world. "Surely this historic event should be commemorated by a stamp next year." Could this be the same George Malcolm Thomson who has just finished writing a study of Francis Drake, to be published next year?

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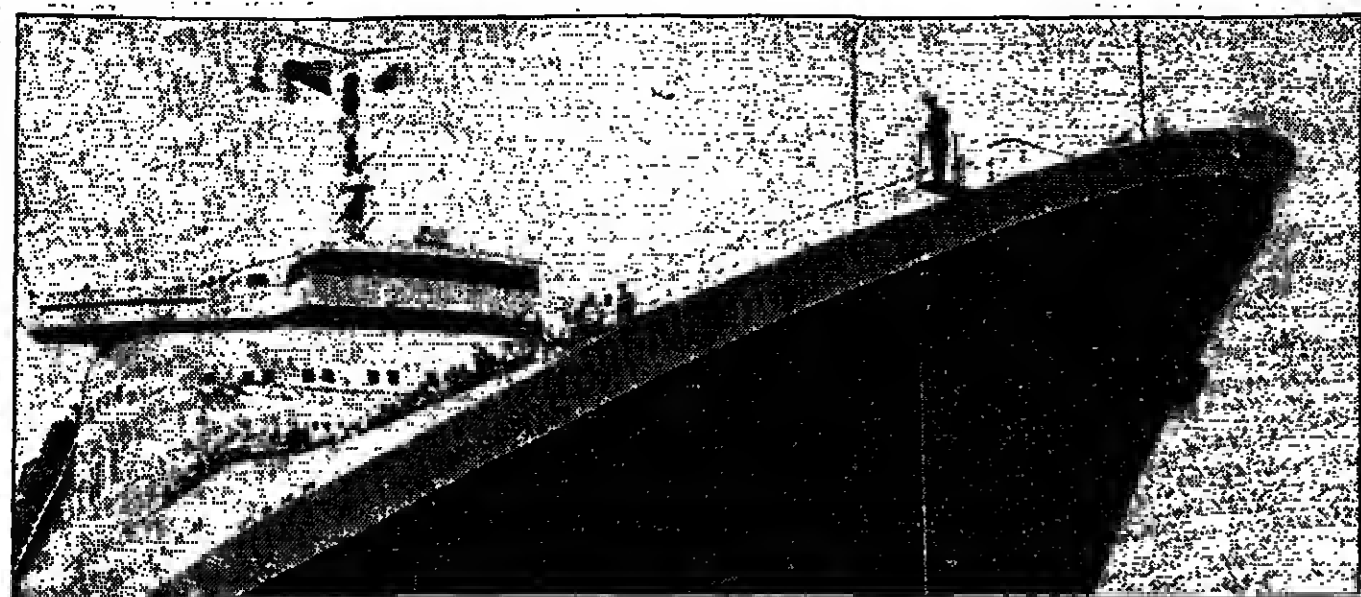
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TRAVEL GUARDIAN



Onion soup for breakfast

JEAN STEAD samples the pleasures of the QE2

ONION SOUP and lamb chops on the menu for breakfast are part of the curiously erratic life on the last great transatlantic ship. They have the most flamboyant head waiters in the business, ever-eager with their bottles of brandy to start the flames leaping round your head as they serve up the steak Diane, making you thankful for the fire-resisting bulkheads.

Stunningly rich Americana wears clothes whose most obvious quality is expensive, constantly lock and unlock their jewellery from the safe deposit. Small children stagger up to the nursery on the sports deck to be looked after by prim English nannies. Just round the corner is the casino, all dark buttoned plush and shaded lights, which keeps open half the night. In spite of the low Cunard stakes, there are plenty of people happily losing hundreds of

pounds in the time it takes them to drink a couple of large brandies from the black bar.

Cunard is proud of the casino, which certainly manages to brush away some of the cobwebs of the old Queen Mary image, still kept proudly and determinedly alive by old sailors tucking rugs round passengers and feeding them soup out on deck. Towards the end of our crossing, I discovered that not only were there actually people who spent their whole voyage being tucked up into deck chairs like so many geriatric patients, but that others, just as improbably, had never left the casino. They spent the sunny afternoons nursing their whiskies in the semi-darkness and were still there the following morning.

"There are professional gamblers on the North Atlantic runs," said a notice above the bars. "Please take

this as a warning." Well, that's one in the eye for those boring old jumbos, with nothing more exciting to offer than a film.

The six-course meals which distinguished the old Queens are still there, along with the acknowledged fact that nobody even tries to eat them after the first day. But now they have a coffee shop, too, which keeps open until three or four in the morning. One night when the Force Nine was a bit noisy and the waves were starting to get up even to the first-class portholes, we rose at 2 a.m. played a rocky kind of table tennis on the quarter-deck, and then had bacon and eggs in the coffee shop. They were still at it in the casino. That's civilised ship's living, I reckon, though I should add that my companion was 14 years old.

She was the one who lapped up every moment of the relentless round of nightly

charettes, got two books a day from the library, urged me to go to hairdressing demonstrations and to guess how many miles the ship had travelled since noon yesterday, nearly but not quite hauled me into going to a "coffee business session for the ladies," and delighted in the ease with which she had a troupe of waiters dancing attendance.

She also made me dress up in "twenties" fancy dress one night and borrowed money to go to every session of lingo, losing pound after pound—though there was a good haul if you got full house. She refused even to look inside the casino or to being tucked up and given soup on the boat-deck.

Which just goes to show that on board QE2 there are many mansions and so long as you are determined enough at the outset, you can get exactly the voyage you want.

The minimum one-way fare is £109, with special round-

trip fares at certain times. For this you get bedrooms with private bathrooms, radio, and telephones. If you are a businessman there are conference rooms and secretaries, typewriters and tape recorders available. There are four swimming pools, a cinema, and half a dozen bars. You also never know when they're going to find some hand, ready to be landed in the Republic, or a few million pounds' worth of smuggled drugs in one of the general air of unreality.

In fact, it is the fantasy of a ship's voyage which will keep people travelling this way across the Atlantic. All that 1890-ish dressing up at night, the boat drill and the Somerset Maugham conversations and the peak of arriving in New York the best way of all. You don't even have to get up early and go on deck. The shat-

tering New York skyline hits you through the restaurant windows as you eat breakfast. And, honey, and bugs in the empty docks of Manhattan. Howling her tremendous siren before she sails back to London, the QE2 seems to be thumping her funnel at the Empire State.

On the round trip you get one and a half days in New York, with a night spent on board. That gives you time for a Greyhound tour of the lower Manhattan and the United Nations, a quick casing of Bowry, Teller, Saks, and Macy's, at least two trips up the Empire State, a visit to the Central Park Zoo, and skating at the Rockefeller Center. And, if you're a theatre-goer, a visit to the Guggenheim or the Metropolitan Museum. There won't be time to eat, but then all those formidable six-course QE2 meals are waiting for you.

GARDENING

Pellet picking

by E. M. MAY

ANYTHING that saves labour in the garden is fine. So I reasoned at catalog time last year, when the prospect of easy sowing of small seeds—and no fiddling thinning of seedlings—put a list of pelleted vegetable seed right at the top of my order. The results have been mixed.

The failures have been of two kinds. First, the total non-appearance of parsnips and beet. I now think this failure could well have been partly gardener-made. Each pelleted seed in the packet has a coating of plant food, which must be broken down when sown; but moisture is a necessary element in this process, which must precede germination; and although the beet was sown in May, two months after the parsnips, my light soil was dryish on both occasions, and I omitted to provide any extra water. But surely that place I just don't know.

The second failure was only partial and of a quite different kind. With carrot seed I decided to hedge my bets and sow both ordinary and pelleted seed. The ordinary supply of tender young roots from successive sowings of my usual variety, "Early Nantes",

would not be thinned, lest the thinning invite carrot fly. The other would be a steady clearing of successive rows. Since, on the face of it, pelleted carrot seeds sown in April should produce the sort of vegetation that would be thinned, I expected to be acquiring at the same time from the pelleted seed—fat carrots for harvesting and storing. The advance worked splendidly—except, that the roots from pelleted seed of the variety "Scarlet Wonder", pulled for examination in early September, proved not much bigger than those from my June-sown "Early Nantes"; moreover, there were enough signs of carrot-fly infestation to make successful storage unlikely. So these roots were taken up and used straight away: an excellent flavour, true, but no winter stock.

Now the successes. Onions for a start. The pelleted variety from Thompson and Morgan, "Rijnshurger Globe", was sown in early March and again in early April—not at ultimate planting distances, which is what is recommended, but at the two-inch spacing that would result from a first thinning of plants raised from traditional seed. These two sowings—thinned by taking every other bulb to leave a four-inch spacing—gave steady supplies all summer: first as spring salad flavours, then as small button onions, and, finally, as developed bulbs of quite a respectable size. Next year I shall try a very early sowing as well, aiming for even larger bulbs.

Pelleted lettuce seed is first-rate for anyone who likes to make frequent small sowings. There is no need even for the fuss of a drill—just a hand fork and something to mark the spot. I made successive small sowings in a rectangular block, but always, as with the onions, I put the seed in rows as closely as recommended and subsequently thinned by hand.

Anyway, one year's experiments don't—or shouldn't—constitute the basis for a judgment, so in addition to the onions I shall try the other pelleted seeds again.

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Skiing in Colorado by JOHN SAMUEL

ANY SKIER visiting the United States should resist the temptation to head for Colorado, if he has curiosity, 10 days, and £100 to spare.

The first place to make for is Denver, the state capital, site of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games and amiably enjoying its status as the "Mile high city." None of Colorado, not even the plains to the east of Denver which form about a third of the state area, is below 3,000 feet. But the chief appeal of the United States rooftop state lies west from Denver on Highway 6. Here, 50 miles distant, the Rockies rise dramatically and abruptly from the plain, dark at the base, creamy, like angry waves, at the tip.

It is a shame not to explore Denver for a day or two. It has a centre where people promenade on a Saturday afternoon, attractive shops, and a friendly style, but few skiers like to hang about the mountains are at hand.

There are plenty of agencies to speed you on your way. Rocky Mountain Airways have services from Denver airport to various resorts in twin-engineered de Havilland Otters, landing almost like helicopters, sometimes on levelled mine tips with only a wisp of wind and a hut to acknowledge an airfield's presence. Continental Trailways run daily bus services from Denver to Aspen, 210 miles distant, at £5 the single trip. All the major car rental services have vehicles equipped for snow, available at the airport. Hertz has a ski-week plan for approximately £40 with no mileage charge.

Immediately west of Denver you can take in Loveland Basin (55 miles), where the Olympic slalom and giant slalom races were originally planned. Loveland provides ski slopes rather than the amenities of a resort, but just over Loveland Pass and the Continental divide is Breckenridge, with splendid intermediate slopes for the skier whose leg muscles need gently breaking in.

Breckenridge is Jean-Claude Killy's home-from-home, which is another way of saying that this founding resort has provided the French Olympic champion with a free six-room house for the publicity value while it develops a ski village at a cost of \$22 millions. Right now it is the kind of one-horse town straight out of "High Noon".

Still on US 6, but 110 miles west of Denver, is

Vail, which is everything that Breckenridge wants to be. Americans await visitors' impressions of Vail uneasily. This is the country of Jim Bridger and the Rocky Mountain locations of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid". That means hundreds of square miles of untouched forest and every peak nudging 14,000 feet. Vail nestles below a north face criss-crossed with ski trails through the trees. On the south side are three great bowls, all skiable, giving a total skiing area of 10 square miles, and serviced by all the lifts the village needs, even in high season.

Vail has been developed in eight years on European lines. Its chalets and huts are pseudo-Tiroler. "Dya think it's OK," they ask. To my mind it is better than the original for interior design. In the end it is the people that matter, and though Americans may not have genuinely their own easy-going friendliness is an adequate substitute.

Four hours' drive from Vail in a giant horse-drawn sleigh, first westwards via US 6 then branching south-east at Glenwood Springs on State Highway 82, one reaches Aspen, "ski capital of the USA." This was the first big post-war development and the others are still trying to catch up. It is a small town as opposed to a village, roads grid-ironed, architecture still largely American West, a kind of Victorian wood and brick pre-fab ramblingly surviving the generations. Aspen lived and died through several silver and gold mining booms before being finally and decisively resurrected because of the four superb skiing areas within a short car ride.

The area draws its name from the tree of the same name, which covers great areas of the mountains in filigree carpets and must present a superb sight in the Fall. Skiers will find their pleasure from the trails of Aspen and Bell Mountains, immediately behind the resort, and from Highlands, Snowmass, and Buttermilk, the three other areas up to 20 minutes' drive away.

All these areas have in common regular falls of the superb powder snow which

flatters the skiing and delights the senses. Turning in it is almost effortless, and as confidence grows so the skier finds himself at speeds he would never attempt in the Alps. The season is from late December, to April, though snow is the height that skiing is possible until June. One lives at 8,000 to 9,000 feet and skis at 11,000 to 13,000 feet, so a doctor 1 spoke to recommends sleep-log pills for the first three or four nights until the body and brain accustom themselves to the rarity of the atmosphere.

In Central Colorado, Love-

land, Breckenridge, Vail, and Aspen are by no means all. Keystone and Winter Park were highly recommended to me. All American runs are in excellent state of repair, and, except at public holidays, queues for lifts are kept notably short by careful attention to capacity.

As an idea to costs, Vail offers seven nights' lodging and six days' lifts from £33. The average is about £50, to which one might add ski hire at about £2 a day and other meals and drinks at £3 to £4 a day. Condominium apartments, even, are available for families or groups.



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US and Japan to open textile talks

THE UNITED STATES and Japan will begin talks in Washington next week of a formal agreement limiting Japan's textile shipments to the US during the three years ending September 30, 1974.

While officials of both Governments described the talks as "technical," Japan is sending a fairly large group of experts for meetings with

US Commerce and State Department officials. Mr. Mikio Mutaguchi, a counsellor to Japan's International Trade Minister, Mr. Tanaka, heads one group arriving in Washington this weekend.

Under threat of unilateral US textile import quotas, Japan, Taiwan, Hongkong, and South Korea reluctantly agreed in mid-October to "voluntarily" restrict exports

of non-cotton textile products to the US market.

US officials said formal bilateral agreements have yet to be signed with each Government, and added that the technical negotiating process could take until the end of the year.

Once the formal agreements are completed, US officials indicated Washington would be ready to participate with other major trading

countries in a multilateral textile agreement. This matter has been discussed with Mr. Oliver Long, Director General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Organisation in Geneva.

US imports of cotton textiles from most countries already are restricted under an agreement worked out by GATT member countries. The proposed agreement would cover wool and synthetic textile and apparel products.

Official inquiry into structure of sugar industry

An inquiry into possible reorganisation of the sugar refining industry was announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. James Prior.

Independent consultants have been engaged to assess and report on the economic and financial benefits from any equitable methods of reorganising the industry.

Mr. Prior said his officials, with representatives of the three sugar refining companies, British Sugar Corporation, Manbury and Garton, and Tate and Lyle, were currently examining the country's probable future requirements of refining capacity.

The inquiry would facilitate these discussions, Mr. Prior said. The consultants will have regard to the national interest, and that of consumers, existing and prospective refining capacity, to the supply position, and to the interests of all sectors of the industry.

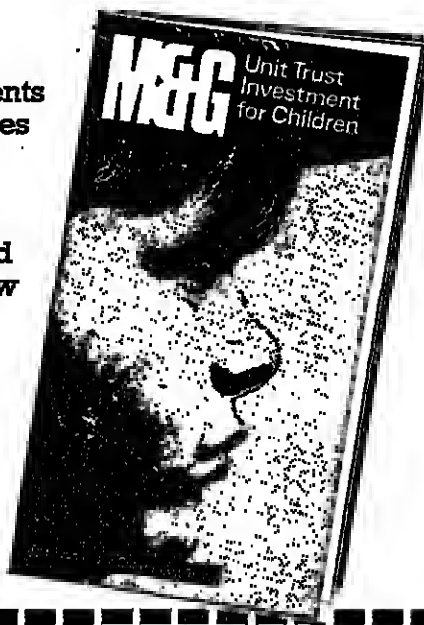
"Their report will be confidential to the four parties engaged in these discussions and there is no intention that the report itself, or any recommendations from it, should be made public except to the extent necessary for the purpose of wider public discussion of any specific measures of reorganisation."

Meanwhile the International Sugar Organisation's council held a three-day meeting in London yesterday and voted to set next year's world free market sugar export quota at 105 per cent of the basic quota.

Total sugar supplies from ISO members to the free market, including re-exports from East European countries, will total 9.2 million tons.

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Founders of Britain's unit trusts

Steelley sells cement interests

The Steelley Company has sold its ready mixed concrete and marine gravel interests in Kent, Sussex, and Hampshire to the Amey Group for £1,150,000. The deal will be covered by the allotment of 1,068,000 ordinary shares which will be placed with institutional investors.

It is expected that the pre-tax profit of these interests will exceed £150,000 in 1971. The assets being taken over will be integrated with the already substantial interests of Amey on the South Coast and will increase the number of ready mixed plants operated by the pre-mix concrete subsidiaries to 120.

During the past 12 months Steelley has spent more than £1 million in expanding its aggregates and ready mixed concrete business in the North-east, Yorkshire and the Midlands, the areas where the majority of its plants are concentrated. The group will invest the proceeds of the sale in planned growth areas.

Sales at home in the half-year rose by £3.6 million to £31.5 million, 11.9 per cent more than last year by £3.4 million, or 8.9 per cent to £24.3 million, due to price increases rather than increased volume.

Demand continues to be disappointing, but the board looks for maintained profit for the full year. This suggests that earnings are running at an annual rate of 22 per cent for an assumed unchanged 12½ per cent total dividend, including the 5½ per cent interim now declared.

Italian takeover by Lead Ind
Lead Industries Group is acquiring at least 70 per cent of the capital of Coltrificio Ceramica SpA of Italy, a manufacturer of ceramic materials for the ceramic industry.

The acquisition is for cash and represents less than 24 per cent of the net assets of Lead Industries.

Costs bring an end to growth of Metal Box

In a weak market yesterday, the shares of Metal Box dropped 8p to 320p in advance of first-half results suggesting that the group's growth has come to a halt.

After a steady rise in earnings over the past decade, the group warns that the 1971 profit is unlikely to show much change.

The group has been cutting its costs where possible and it is easy to see why. By about margins have slipped by about 11 per cent in spite of an 11 per cent increase to £123.7 million in sales, pre-tax profit is about £200,000 down at £8.8 million.

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Gartons still struggling
Gartons, the Warrington-based agricultural seedsmen,

which reported a first half loss, is still struggling. After charging exceptional items of £14,577, directors report a loss of £126,068 for 1970-71, against a £27,458 loss last time.

The preference dividend has been paid but the ordinary shares are still out of the dividend list. The last distribution was the 5 per cent paid for 1968-69.

Nationwide assets top £900M
Assets of the Nationwide Building Society have now reached £900 million—an increase of £150 million during the past 12 months.

The society, which changed its name from Co-operative Permanent in September last year, is attracting new investments at the rate of £14 million per working day.

Bodycote Holdings in takeover talks
Bodycote Holdings has announced that discussions are taking place with a view to acquiring two private companies in the textile field.

The quotation for the ordinary shares of Bodycote was suspended pending the approval by shareholders in a general meeting of the acquisition of Valdow Jersey Fabrics and the disposal of G. R. Bodycote Limited. Both resolutions were approved.

At the same time Mr. A. G. Boddy resigned and Mr. J. C. Dwek, Mr. G. D. J. Hay, Mr. V. J. Dwek, and Mr. E. Laundon were appointed to the board.

The quotation for Bodycote ordinary shares will remain suspended pending the outcome of the negotiations and a circular will be sent to shareholders containing particulars of the proposed acquisition if the negotiations are successful.

George Sturla deeper in red
George Sturla, the Bookle based retail stores group, went deeper into the red during the six months to July 31, but the board expects a modest recovery in the rest of the year.

Meanwhile the directors report that after providing £21,000 (£22,000) for depreciation and bank loan interest of £11,000 (£10,000), the group incurred a first half loss of £88,000, against one of £41,000 last time.

Bad news breaks down the optimism

After four days of rising prices, the London stock market went into reverse yesterday to close on a dull note. The "Financial Times" index dropped 6.5 points to 420.9.

Wall Street's overnight downturn after its recent rally was mainly responsible for a steady stream of sales. The market also began facing up to the looming Coventry turmoil strike, in spite of the Employment Minister's eleventh hour attempt to break the deadlock.

Leaders bore the brunt of losses, but second-rank stocks came in for spasmodic support. Turnover, however, stayed relatively flat, the week's total useful 11.5 per cent up on the previous week.

In marked contrast to the past few days, very few outstanding features developed, due to an unusually small volume of trading statements and the virtual absence of fresh takeover news.

Business in gilts slackened and losses ranged to about 1½ with long-dated issues showing the bigger falls.

Some nervousness about the crucial stages of the Salisbury talks led to Southern Rhodesian bonds being marked down a couple of points, though few deals were reported.

Falls by leading industrials were generally in the 5p to 8p range with Metal Box 8p down at 362 in front of its interim figures.

Simon Engineering, was another company prominently lower in engineering, on talk of financial difficulties in connection with a Cuban contract (later denied). However, at 106 the shares closed well above the worst for a 10p net fall.

Smith's Industries, 191, and J. Lucas, 363½, both up about 8p, provided two good spots in car components.

BATs, 305½, led tobacco lower with an 11p drop, and breweries, stores, and textiles also declined, though ICI, 78½, after a satisfactory interim results.

Apprehension about Government plans to examine sugar refining lowered Tate and Lyle 7p to 152.

Elsewhere, speculative demand lifted Court Line 8p to 176 (after touching 180).

Banks finished below the best, while insurers reacted after a firm start. Reflecting the dearth of buyers, oils fell further.

CLOSING PRICES

Account November 26
Settlement December 7

British Funds		Dollars.....		BSP Inds.....		1892-93	
Transocean	300.00	Carver.....	278	+18	BSP Inds.....	241.94	92
Sec 75-80	300.00	Collect Dis.	298	+2	BSR Loyal.....	22	92
Sec 72-77	300.00	Cy. & S. Co.	298	+2	BSR Loyal.....	22	92
Sec 70-75	300.00	Hill Samuel	307.5		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 68-73	300.00	Ho Hong S.	212.5		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 66-71	300.00	King & S. Co.	308	+10	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 64-69	300.00	Keeneland	140		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 62-67	300.00	Life C. Co.	311.5		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 60-65	300.00	M. & S. Co.	311.5		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 58-63	300.00	McGraw-Hill	311.5		B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 56-61	300.00	Miner Ass.	200	+2	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 54-59	300.00	Mo. & S. Co.	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 52-57	300.00	Nat. West.	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 50-55	300.00	Northwestern	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 48-53	300.00	Overseas	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 46-51	300.00	St. Paul	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
Sec 44-49	300.00	Union Dis.	147	+6.5	B. S. Bates.....	124.78	+1
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Dewar Cup lawn tennis

Miss Goolagong slumps badly

By DAVID GRAY

Evonne Goolagong's wild fluctuations of form continued at the Royal Albert Hall last night. After playing superbly to defeat Francoise Durr in the final of the Palace Hotel, Torquay, last week, she slumped to lose by 0-6, 6-0, 6-1 to Julie Heldman (US) in the semi-final of the deciding tournament of the Dewar Cup.

It was the 20-year-old Wimbledon champion's fifth defeat in six weeks. Since her return to Europe last month, she has lost twice to Miss Heldman on a slippery court at Billingham and now in a match which must have seemed a disaster to her last night—and

once each to Virginia Wade, Rosemary Casals and In Miss Durr. Certainly, she is an inexperienced Wimbledon champion, but she ought not to have been outsmarted as easily as she was by the astute Miss Heldman last night.

The score is a testimony to the strangeness of the evening. There were times when the long slow exchanges bewildered the Albert Hall crowd, but the most interesting could be heard from the champagne-drinkers in the boxes above the court. But always Miss Heldman struck deadly to her tactical plan.

A succession of high lobs to the backhand followed by blistering passing shots, won the American the first set. Then, after losing the second set, she won the third by 6-2, 6-2. Last year, the French player defeated her at the same stage in the competition.

At the final this afternoon Miss Heldman met her old enemy Virginia Wade, who defeated her in a dramatic final at Billingham a month ago. Yesterday, Miss Wade gained a sharp piece of revenge defeating Miss Durr, the holder of the trophy, by 6-2, 6-2. Last year, the French player defeated her at the same stage in the competition.

The match yesterday was the fifth meeting between Miss Wade and Miss Durr in the whisky circuit this year. Out of town the score was two all—Edinburgh and Torquay went in France and Billingham and Aberavon in the British player. This last contest was the shortest of all. Miss Wade was so much in command, remembering the past, she must have been suspected about the ease of her victory.

Almost her only moment of pleasure came when the umpire announced the first set to Miss Wade by six games to one. Miss Durr corrected him: "I don't have too many games, but when I have won two I like to have two." The second set was closer for a time, but Miss Wade was moving better, and serving more accurately than she had done in the second half of this match at Torquay. Her volleying and smashing were much more effective and there was no fatal relaxation this time.

Bob Hewitt, the winner of the men's trophy in 1968, the first year of the whisky circuit, survived another volcanic semi-final. Untamed by curfew, sickness and penicillin injections, he beat John Pals, the most improved British player of the season, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. The contest was full of clever rallying and hitting. Pals, with his soft touch and subtle sense of strategy, attacked at once and took the lead and for the hour smouldering Hewitt vainly tried to counter-attack.

Pals was passing him with neatly-placed shots, mostly from the backhand, and Hewitt, who was sure this was a case of a centre-line ace and on Pals's game-plan for 5-2, he claimed that a British service, which he had learned from the American, would be his best interest to find another club. We have had to rule him out because our prime function is to play in the first team only men who are eligible for Scotland.

Meanwhile the Scottish will today play Richmond at the Athletic Ground without Jim Wilson. He is not available, so Derek Hockings will play in the first team for the first time this season. Richmond have Mark Brickett as their full back and Richard Woodall, an 18-year-old student, on the wing in place of Stuart Maxwell, who is required by Cheshire.

As a result of their defeat by Somerset, Devon have made six changes for their county championship match against Gloucestershire at Bristol next weekend. Including a change of captaincy, Bob Sladdon taking over from Andy Cole. The new team will be: (1) John Burrows (captain), (2) John Burrows, (3) John Burrows, (4) John Burrows, (5) John Burrows, (6) John Burrows.

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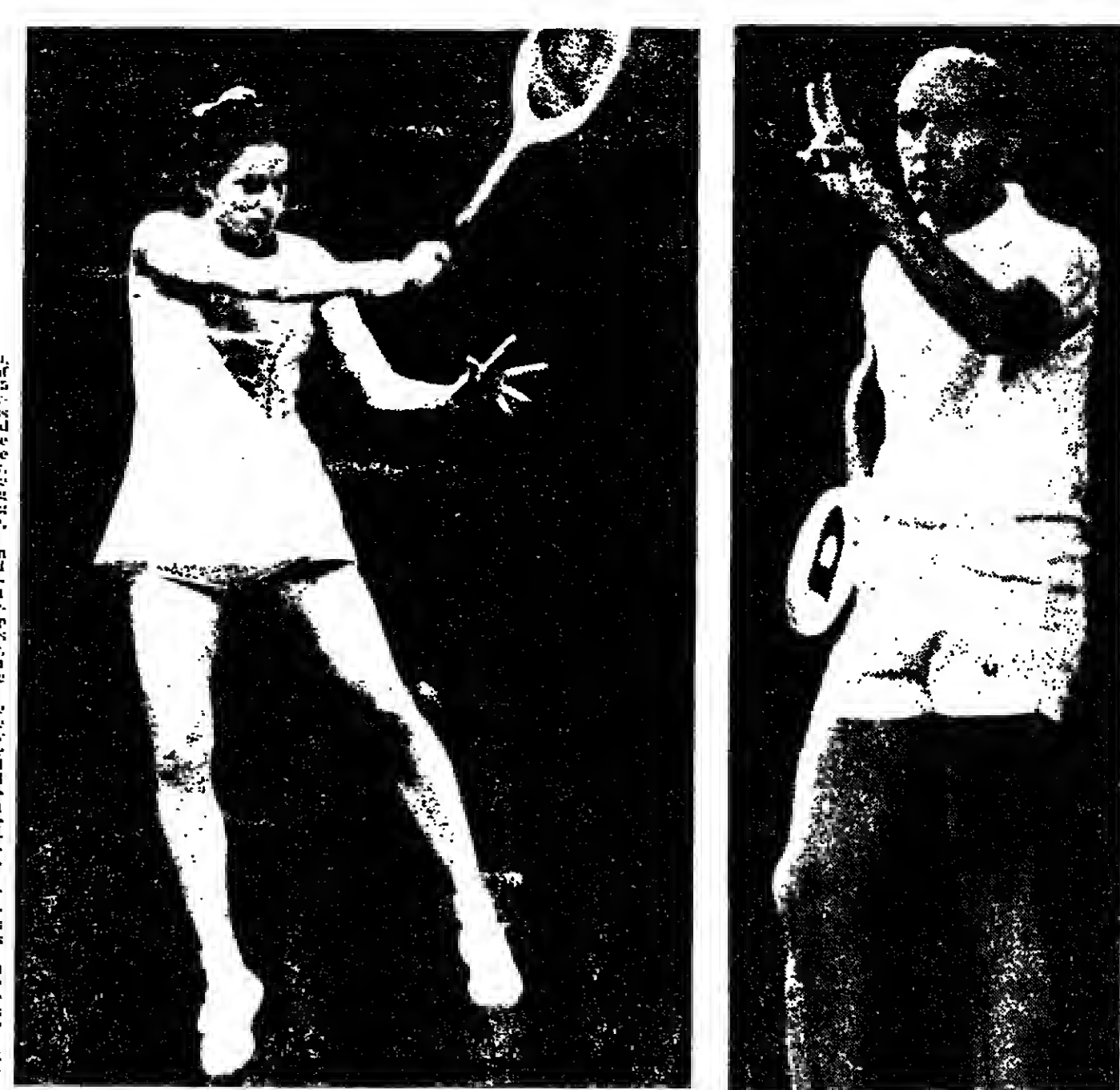
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Virginia Wade must have been suspicious about the ease of her victory. Bob Hewitt smouldered in a contest full of clever rallying and bitter repartee

A quiet spell giving way to much activity

By DAVID FROST

After a relatively quiet spell in the Rugby Union season is building up to a busy period of activity with the two international matches between France and the Wallabies this weekend and next, the first of England's new-style trials in two weeks, and the University Match following Tuesday.

The Wallabies, having made an outstanding start to their tour of France, have done much better in their last two games. Last Sunday they beat a French regional team 12-3 at Grenoble, and on Wednesday they defeated a team chosen from the French national 20-9 at Toulon. Their improvement is said to have come from a tightening of their forward play, together with the excellence of their new 19-year-old stand-off half, Russell Allsop.

Reports in French newspapers suggest that the Wallabies are expected to win a spoiling game, owing from the handling errors of their opponents. Their captain, wing forward Greg Davis, is an old hand at this method of play, but on paper the French are for today's international at Toulouse look strong enough to win with something to spare.

John Burrows and Azarete at prop, and Claude Spengler at fly, and Davey at scrum-half, and plain France have the makings of a formidable pack.

The first of England's trials in two weeks' time will be seen in the regional teams of the West and the North of England. Today's clash between Cheshire and Lancashire is bound to influence the selection of the North team, and it has the added taint of the promotion between the county John Burrows, England's coach, the Far East, and John Elders, who has taken over from his assistant as coach for the home cricket championship.

Those seeking a glimpse of one of the leading candidates for the South-West team might find this a reason for watching the trial at Exeter. The South-West team will be: (1) John Burrows (captain), (2) John Burrows, (3) John Burrows, (4) John Burrows, (5) John Burrows, (6) John Burrows.

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Gold suggests ban on all 'steroid' events

Arthur Gold, the secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board yesterday suggested a ban on all events where the use of anabolic steroids is suspected. He said that the use of such drugs was a "body building drug which is difficult to detect—benefited competitors. Five or six British athletes were taking them, he thought."

He said that it was not known how quickly the steroids could be detected. The only answer was to remove the temptation completely by removing the steroids from the competition. The only other answer would be to devise a new system where the winner of a throwing event would be decided on a weight-performance ratio.

"But if we have got to protect men from themselves one ought to control the temptation altogether—although there would be an outcry from the athletes. It is clearly a method of cheating and it is rotten for the sport."

He did not think there was a great problem in Britain. "Even with all my suspicions I can think of only five or six athletes who might be thought remotely of taking steroids."

Gold was commenting on a meeting of the British Amateur Athletic Board yesterday. He was speaking to a group of athletes who were gathered for a meeting of the British Amateur Athletic Board.

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'Unknown' hits 73 in 28 minutes off World attack

Brisbane, November 19 — The Rest of the World were met with a magnificent innings by an almost unknown batsman here today. Alan Jones's wonderful evening batting left Queensland 108 for two at the close in reply to the Rest's first innings total of 225 on the opening day of the match. He treated a famous attack with utter disdain, scoring 73 in 28 minutes with four sixes and eight fours.

The Queensland opening batsman faced only 64 balls and was finally caught off Richard Hyton when Al McDonald roared round the long off boundary to hold a splendid catch. Jones had put on 51 for the first wicket with Peter Ryan, who was also caught by McDonald off Bedi.

Twelve wickets fell and 343 runs were scored in 300 minutes. The Rest of the World's innings was led by 89 from Clive Lloyd in his best vein and his Lancashire colleague, Engineer.

Lloyd made his runs in 66 minutes from 105 deliveries. He hit his first ball to the cover boundary and went on to hit nine more fours before being stumped off the leg-spinner, Malcolm Fraser, who finished with three for 67.

But Engineer's was a strangely quiet knock. He struggled to find the middle of the bat and was just finding his touch when was well caught and bowled by Geoff Dymock.

Gavaskar 115 and Zahir 120 flourished briefly, but the middle-order batsmen flopped and only Bedi (17) and Cumis 116 not out managed to reach double figures. Albury took four for 57.

The closing stages were rather exciting. At one point, four players were on the ground, all needing attention from the trainers. Balderstone went off with a cut head, and was replaced by Davis. And Part was booked after only five minutes on the field. Albury threw discretion in the winds. Owen was able to race through and score a fourth goal for Carlisle.

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Bristol City are crushed

By CYRIL CHAPMAN

Bristol City 1, Carlisle 4

A resurgent Carlisle United side with four wins from their last five matches gave Bristol City a goal start and a hiding last night at Ashton Gate. Stan Bowles, former Manchester City player, had a part in three first half goals, and when Bristol warmed all too late to their work, they lacked a player of this calibre to extract any reward from a tempestuous finish.

It seemed that City were going to make light of the fact that their usual side had been reduced to a number of injuries when they scored in the fourth minute. It was a surprise for Carlisle, and possibly for the Bristol supporters, seeing themselves for a difficult evening. Gow tried three times before the ball eventually hit the back of the net. The Carlisle defenders, Barton headed away the first attempt, the second shot was blocked and Gow finally registered his fifth goal of the season.

Carlisle took the setback in their stride, however. Balderstone scored over when a less excitable shot was required. Barton equalised in the twentieth minute, but a fierce shot from near the penalty spot.

A foul on Bowles on the corner of the penalty area gave Carlisle a good chance. Again Rooks used his head to score a corner kick. Gibson could not hold the ball when it came in, and fortunately for Bristol, the referee ruled an infringement and Carlisle had to withdraw. The incident was typical of the difficulties in which the City defenders found themselves.

Unassisted on itself to such an extent that Bristol were completely bewildered when Carlisle scored twice in two minutes just before half time.

Four attackers took part without interference in the movements which led up to the first goal. The ball was passed to a left-foot shot which spreadeagled Gibson across his goal. Bowles, enjoying almost complete freedom, made the second goal. The third goal, the ball lodged neatly on the head of Owen, running in near the far post.

City did most of the attacking in the second half. When the orthodox failed to bring any result, they sent on Part in place of Pear, and pushed Rooks into the fray.

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Rebel unions on TUC carpet

By JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent

The revolt against the TUC's campaign of total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act gathered force yesterday. The two most significant unions which are not of step with TUC policy last night firmly rejected an olive branch from the TUC "Inner Cabinet"—the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The TUC leaders must now decide whether they have the will, and the power to discipline the rebel unions. They are the 110,000-member Confederation of Health Service Employees and the 95,000 member National Union of Bank Employees. Both were called for "trial" before the committee yesterday to explain their deliberate defiance of TUC instructions to refuse to register under the new Act.

The next move lies with the TUC. At separate meetings they asked the two unions whether they would call emergency conferences to reverse their policy and switch to supporting the TUC line.

But the formula was turned down flat. NUBEE told the TUC that, if its members felt they were coming under TUC pressure, it would merely reaffirm its opposition to TUC policy.

The TUC is in a dilemma because, if it accepts this act of rebellion, other unions which want to register will feel free to do so. On the other hand, if they are expelled, the General Council could, within a few months, find itself suspending some of the biggest middle-of-the-road unions, too.

Two die in tanker gassing

Two men died and nine others were treated for the effects of gas poisoning in an accident on board the tanker Ocean Bridge, undergoing repairs in drydock at Greenock yesterday.

The owners of the ship, Bibby Line of Liverpool, said they understood that the accident happened when the carbon dioxide fire extinguishing system was accidentally set off while about 20 men were working in the engine room.

The men who died were Mr James O'Neill, aged 39, of Kelburn Terrace, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, and Mr Ambrose Malloy, 41, of Churchill Drive, Bishopston, Renfrewshire. Mr Malloy, married with two daughters, was manager in charge of part of the dry dock operation. Mr O'Neill was a cleaner.

In March, the 66,000-ton tanker was seriously damaged by fire after an explosion as she was on her way to help another British ship in difficulty off Cape Finisterre. The Captain Henry Pyle, aged 39, died after the blast.

Lone sailor rescued after 9 days adrift

John Davies, aged 26, a former Royal Marine, of Plymouth, who had been almost given up for dead was found alive yesterday after nine days adrift at sea in an inflatable rubber dinghy.

Mr Davies, of Pemrose Road, St Budeaux, launched the dinghy when his yacht Louise sank off the French coast in a sudden squall. His companion, an Australian, Mr John Farr Clark, aged 22, was picked up by a French trawler shortly after the yacht went down.

By this time Mr Davies had disappeared and a big sea and air search was mounted: it was called off after two days when no trace had been found of Mr Davies or the dinghy. He had no food and only five gallons of fresh water in the dinghy to

Big N. Sea gas and oil strike

By VICTOR KEEGAN, Industrial Correspondent

A big oil strike has been made in the North Sea, 135 miles east of Aberdeen, by a consortium which includes the Gas Council.

It is too early to assess the full extent of the find, but comparisons are already being made with the Alaskan discovery which British Petroleum made in the "Forties" field 25 miles away.

Unofficial estimates of the potential of the "Forties" field rise almost weekly. It is now believed to be able to supply 15 to 20 per cent of Britain's current oil consumption. Taking BP, Gas Council-Amoco, and Shell discoveries together it looks as though the UK sector of North Sea will easily be able to yield 60 per cent of Britain's current consumption, and probably a lot more when the pipelines are laid.

The Gas Council has a 31 per cent stake in the discovery which is shared with the American companies Amoco (31 per cent), Amerasia (23 per cent), and Texas Eastern (15 per cent). The find was made on block 22/18 six miles from where the consortium made a smaller find some two years ago.

Clean quality

The well indicated a flow rate of 4,000 barrels a day of oil, and two million cubic feet of gas. The quality of the oil is similar to that of the BP find, having a low content of sulphur, which is the highest cause of pollution, and expensive to remove at the refinery stage.

Mr J. West, Amoco's UK exploration manager said, "This one certainly looks commercially viable, but it is in very deep water and would be very expensive to develop. These are the same problems BP have."

The group said that the quality of the oil was good, and the flow rate from the second well indicated a production rate of more than 10,000 barrels a day was likely. There would be a smaller flow from the original well six miles away.

The rig which drilled the well, SEDCO 135K, was towed from New Zealand at a cost of £1 million. Conoco will be chartering it for the next two months and it will then return to the Amoco-Gas Council group.

Sir Alec makes little ground in Rhodesia

Continued from page one

Mr Frost, a farmer who supervises the milking of his cows before driving into the city to supervise the ruling party, is an expert as far as the cause of some dismay in the British camp.

This week's exercise by Sir Alec is regarded as having provided the British with the extreme political demands of all sides. If there is a settlement, then the "test of acceptability" will try to match these demands to the proposed Constitution. It is believed that the various positions outlined this week are subject to negotiation. African Nationalist sources told me that even the hard-line statement by Jailed ZANU leader, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, was written with possible concessions in mind.

Our Political Staff adds: The Foreign Secretary's first major talks in Rhodesia yesterday were not helped by one of the Conservatives' most individualistic backbenchers, Mr John Biffen, MP for Oswestry, who spoke last night of the dangers of being trapped

Two prisoners at large

Two men escaped from Birmingham prison yesterday. They are Derek Black (24), serving four years for wounding, burglary, theft, and actual bodily harm, and John Leiper (28), serving 30 months for burglary.

Police said last night that the men may be in a white Morris 1000, registration ENP978, stolen from the area.

002 will save money

By our Air Correspondent

Mr Peter Masefield, chairman of the British Airports Authority, calculates that the cost to an airline of flying the Concorde supersonic jet from London to New York and back is likely to be about 10 per cent less than a similar flight by a subsonic aircraft.

He believes that "subject to careful scheduling, combined with skilled marketing methods, the Concorde will not only be attractive to traffic, but can also be made profitable in service alongside subsonic types."

Mr Masefield made this optimistic assessment in Washington yesterday, when he gave the Littlewood Memorial Lecture before an audience drawn from the American aviation industries and Government agencies.

He argued that "although the cost per available seat of Concorde is higher, the cost of the aircraft's journey is less than the 707's. To provide transport for an aircraft load of about 130 passengers across the Atlantic, Concorde offers potentially the cheaper ride.

Unexplosive film on the IRA shown to press

GRANADA yesterday allowed the press to see the film on the Provisional IRA which the Independent Television Authority banned.

The 30-minute film was made for "World in Action" and was to have been shown on November 1. But the ITA announced on October 28—before the film had been seen, or even completed—that it would not be shown. The authority viewed the film this week and confirmed the ban. It cited section three (1) of the Television Act, which deals in general terms with public taste, public order, and impartiality. Granada has not been told of any specific objections.

The film, called "South of the Border," deals with last month's conference of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Republican movement, in Dublin. It has extensive sequences of Rory O'Bradeigh, president of Sinn Féin, and of Sean Mac Súfáin, who is usually described as the Provisionals' military chief of staff. Both were delivering, as was widely reported on television and in the press, an uncompromising call to arms, to a sympathetic audience of several hundred.

This is balanced (half and half, in terms of time) with clips of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, the two most forthright and articulate critics of the IRA on the root benches of the opposition parties in the Irish Republic. Dr Fitzgerald talks of the fascist nature of the Provisionals and the threat to institutions in both parts of Ireland; Dr Cruise O'Brien gives a warning (in a public debate) of the dangerous fascination of the gun and the disastrous consequences of allowing force to hold sway instead of democratic consent.

The film is something of a



'Sorry, old chap—can't slot you in!'

Woman shot in border gun battle

From DEREK BROWN, in Strabane

A woman from the Republic of Ireland was shot in the head during a cross-border gun battle between gunmen and British troops yesterday afternoon.

Miss Bried Carr, aged 24, was walking across the bridge marking the border at Lifford, near Londonderry, about 15 miles from Londonderry, when gunmen on the southern side of the border opened fire at Royal Engineers building obstructions on the road. Troops of the 45 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery, who were covering the

engineers, returned fire. Miss Carr had crossed the border, and was behind the troops when she was shot in the head.

The incident occurred about 3.30 p.m. Several shots had been fired across the border previously, but the troops had not returned the fire.

Miss Carr was taken to Strabane Hospital, and was later transferred to the Anaglin Hospital in Londonderry, where she underwent an operation. Her parents, who live in Kildrum,

Co. Donegal, were called to the hospital.

Miss Carr was a waitress at the Inter County Hotel, a few minutes' walk from the border, to Lifford, Co. Donegal.

Twelve more men interned at the Long Kesh camp have been released after their appeals to the advisory committee under the chairmanship of Judge Brown. The committee has now investigated the cases of 124 people, out of 300 so far received. Of the men whose cases have been reviewed, 66 refused to appear before Judge Brown and his two judicial colleagues. The State-

meet by the Stormont Ministry of Home Affairs said that five men were still under investigation, but it had been decided that 107 would definitely not be released.

A man said to be a member of the left-wing Republican Group Saor Eire (Free Ireland) was sentenced to four years' penal servitude in Dublin yesterday for the illegal possession of firearms with intent to endanger life.

Martin Casey (30), of Sandyhill Avenue, Ballymun, Dublin, was found guilty by the Circuit Criminal Court in Dublin last week, but was sentenced yesterday.

Cloudy after early sun

A rough of low pressure will move across W areas of the British Isles. Rain, perhaps preceded by some sleet or snow, will move from the W into N Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and W districts of England during the day. Eastern England will have sunny spells but will become cloudy later, perhaps with some rain late in the period. Temperatures will rise to near the seasonal normal in the W, but it will be rather cold elsewhere.

The truth of today's world is that British power is more honestly measured by its ability to negotiate protection for the Cornish inshore fishermen than by agreements on a timetable for African majority rule in Salisbury.

Mr Denis Healey told Bournemouth Fabians last night that the minimum required for a settlement which would be acceptable to Rhodesians as a whole would be the repeal of the 1969 Constitution and of the Land Tenure Act.

If Sir Alec could stand firm on these points he would repair the damage he had done to Britain's trade and influence in Africa by the South African arms fiasco.

"If he does not stand firm, the catastrophe he avoided by the Singapore conference will come about at last," Mr Healey said.

STOP PRESS

AMATEUR BOXING

Poland beat England by eight bouts to three in Warsaw.

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Maundling sees Hill on reports

Lord Hill, chairman of the BBC, saw Mr Maundling yesterday to discuss coverage of Northern Ireland. He indicated afterwards that there had been no suggestion at the meeting of censorship, or of restricting reporters.

Lord Hill said after the 45-minute meeting: "The Home Secretary informed me of the character and intensity of some views expressed at the Home Affairs Committee of Conservative MPs last week. In reply I told him that I would write to him within the next few days setting out the BBC's viewpoint."

This meeting, and the one Mr Maundling is to have on Tuesday with Lord Aylesford, chairman of the Independent Television Authority, are the result of strong criticism by some Conservative backbenchers of television coverage. In particular, MPs have criticised what they regard as hostile and unfair interviewing of army officers, though the army itself has not publicly supported this complaint.

The BBC resents and denies charges of bias and unfair reporting, and Lord Hill is widely believed among broadcasters to be firm in his determination to resist outside pressures. Something of this can be seen in his remarkably strong reply last month to charges from Mr James Kilfeather, Ulster Unionist MP, that BBC reporters had been "slipping in the back."

Lord Hill replied then: "As

a corporate citizen of the U

the BBC must tell the who

truth as far as our journal

can find it, to both sides in

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Rhys, secretary of the fed

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"BBC and ITV cameras cr

are themselves exposed,

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death or injury in North

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The National Unio

Journalists' chapel at BBC

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002 will save money

By our Air Correspondent

Mr Peter Masefield, chairman of the